

THE JOURNAL

Friday, April 12, 2002

50 cents (tax included)

Martin Snapp Young people do good to honor friends' memories [A5]

Arts Berkeley Rep production sets a mystery in Kabul [C3]

Perks are the icing on the cake for area's school superintendents

■ Teachers don't always appreciate the extras districts dangle to hire and keep superintendents

By Suzanne Pardington and Kara Shire

STAFF WRITERS

Public-school superintendents in the East Bay make \$90,000 to \$185,000 a year, but those salaries often mask their true

compensation.

Perks such as car and housing allowances can drive up the total by tens of thousands of dollars and are becoming increasingly common as the pool of superintendents shrinks and districts look for new ways to attract and keep them.

Berkeley Unified pays the interest on Michele Barraza Lawrence's home loan on top of her \$185,000 salary. West Contra Costa forks over \$12,000 annually for a tax-deferred annuity for Superintendent Gloria Johnston's retirement. And Dennis Goetsch, Antioch's superintendent, takes home \$8,100 a year to help pay for his Cadillac.

As Albany and Pleasanton schools search for new superintendents, they will face a difficult balancing act between enticing quality applicants with lucrative contracts and avoiding the disapproval of teachers unions and taxpayers.

Teachers often balk at superintendents' high salaries and extra perks as they fight over percentage points in tense contract negotiations. Recent talks in Acalanes and Antioch are no exception. During one protest in Antioch, a teacher waved a placard saying "Who's driving a district-subsidized Cadillac?"

"It's one of these issues that rubs a lot of teachers the wrong way," said Beth Furstenhal, president of the Acalanes Education

Association. "When the district is saying poverty, poverty, poverty and we can't give you guys any raise, and the superintendent's salary is so high, it creates ill will."

Recruiters and education organizations say rising salaries and extra perks are unavoidable in an increasingly tight job market for superintendents. It's a simple lesson in supply and demand: Fewer people are applying for more and more job va-

cancies.

"It's becoming a seller's market, and you'll see salaries are up because of that," said Dick Loveall, director of the executive search services of the California School Boards Association.

Half of school superintendents nationwide are expected to leave their jobs by the end of the decade, according to the American Association of School Ad-

See PERKS, Page A7

City envisions new avenue with old-time feel

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — City planners have big plans for the commercial side of Fairmount Avenue. They're envisioning a bustling, safe main street with small and architecturally interesting shops, comfortable benches, new but old-fashioned overhead street lighting and cafes where residents can stop by to read a newspaper, grab a latte and greet their neighbors.

They see Fairmount Avenue being transformed into a comfortable urban environment similar to Solano Avenue in Albany and Fourth Street in Berkeley.

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity for the community," said Steve Price, a member of the city's Design Review Board, "and it will be a fun destination for folks walking along the greenway."

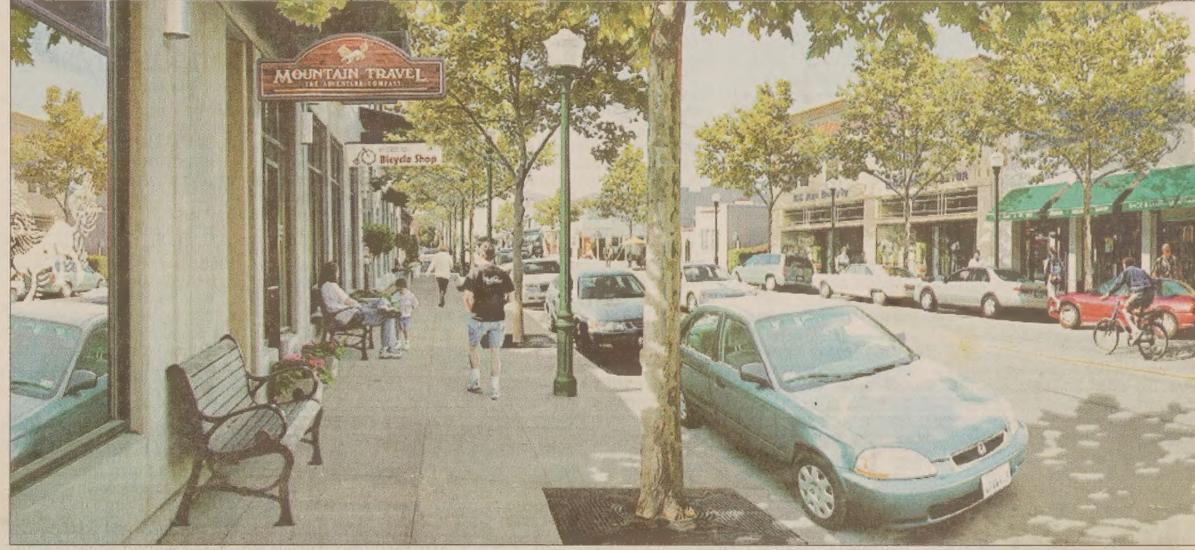
Stretching from San Pablo Avenue east four blocks to Richmond Street, the commercial area of Fairmount Avenue has for the past few decades had little to offer except a few professional buildings, a gas station, travel agencies, a bank, a liquor store and apartments — not exactly a place where people want to congregate.

"Fairmount is fairly degraded as a main street now," said Price, "but its bones are still there."

With the El Cerrito Plaza's new stores fronting the street and the BART station just across the way, city planners want to take advantage of Fairmount's potential and give the area a sense of safety, identity and community, give shoppers needed services and put more sales tax revenue into city coffers.

"I think it's a really good use of the city's energy and time right now to build on the impetus the plaza has given to that part of town," said Dan Smith, chairman of the Design Review Board.

The city has shown interest in upgrading Fairmount Avenue since the mid-1990s. And it will see a first step when Pacific Gas & Electric undergrounds overhead utility lines there by the end of the year.



LOWER FAIRMOUNT AVENUE as it exists today (above), offers few amenities for shoppers or pedestrians. In his photo illustration at top, planner Steve Price offers one view of what the commercial area could offer in the future.

Round-the-clock relay at ECHS will help fight cancer

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — For the residents who commit themselves to raising more than \$100 and camping out at a high school for 24 hours, local cancer survivors have just one thing to say: Thank you.

El Cerrito's third annual Relay for Life — a fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society — will be held for 24 hours from 10 a.m. Saturday, May 18 through 10 a.m. Sunday, May 19 at the track of El Cerrito High School, 540 Ashbury Avenue.

Nationally, the event raised \$200 million last year alone and \$20,000 in El Cerrito. But the event is more than just raising money, it's about survival for peo-

RELAY FOR LIFE

WHAT: A 24-hour fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society

WHEN: 10 a.m., Saturday, May 18 through 10 a.m., Sunday, May 19

WHERE: The El Cerrito High School running track, 540 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito

INFORMATION: Call 510-525-2608 or go online at www.cancer.org

COST: Participants are expected to raise \$100 individually and another \$100 total for their team

See RELAY, Page A7

COUGAR PAW plaques can be purchased to fill the letters of the Albany High Cougars logo in the main hallway of Albany High School. Proceeds from these sales are used to support the school's athletic program.

STEVE MASLANKA/STAFF



AHS Wall of Honor makes money hand-over-paw

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Residents are invited to support Albany High School by giving to the school's Wall of Honor, a fund-raiser that since September, has raised about \$25,000.

On the 60-foot long, 6-foot-high wall in the school's main hallway is the word "Cougars." Inside the lettering are engraved aluminum paws, which can be bought for \$100 to \$300 each.

The fund-raiser has been a success for Albany High School's Sports Boosters, which raises money for the school's athletic department.

The idea for the wall belongs to Marianne Henri, a parent at

the school, who wanted to raise money for the sports department after her daughter got involved with a team there.

"It was a wonderful experience for her; her coaches were so wonderful and supportive of

See PAW, Page A7

INDEX

Police Reports	A2
Man About Town	A3
Opinion	A4
Community Folk	A7
Sports	C1
Crossword	C6

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WORTH CHECKING OUT

Baxter Creek Earth Day

Friends of Baxter Creek will celebrate Earth Day this month on Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to noon at Booker T. Anderson Park, 47th and Cypress, in Richmond. Help tend a recently restored section of Baxter Creek that provides an oasis of wildlife habitat in a highly urbanized neighborhood. Volunteers will weed, clean-up trash, and propagate native plants as well as learn about the birds, bugs, and amphibians that call the creek home. The work party will be followed by a raffle drawing and free lunch. This event is sponsored by the Friends of Baxter Creek and the Urban Creek Council. To RSVP (only necessary if you want that free lunch) and for more information, contact Apple of the Aquatic Outreach Institute at 231-5778 or apple@aoiinstitute.org.

Folk dance fun

Mira Vista United Church of Christ hosts a night of fun and folk dancing from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, April 19. Instruction and refreshments will be provided. Dancers and non-dancers of all ages are welcome to attend. A small donation will be requested. The church is located at 7075 Cutting Blvd., just below Arlington, in El Cerrito. For more information call 510-234-0110.

Berkeley High concert

The Berkeley High School Orchestra presents its Spring Concert on Thursday, April 25, at the Berkeley Community Theater at Alston and Martin

Luther King Jr. Way. Pieces performed will include Clifton Williams' "Dedication Overture," William Hine's "Creed," and Modest Mussorgsky's "Night on Bald Mountain." Two graduating seniors will be featured: Daniel Goldin in the first movement of the Mozart Flute Concerto, K.314, and Gene Fieldon in the Max Bruch Romance for Viola and Orchestra. Tickets: \$1 students; \$4 adults. Details: 510-528-2098.

Berkeley Garden Club

On Tuesday, April 16 Anthony Garza, UC Botanical Garden supervisor of horticulture and grounds, will talk about native plants for the home gardener. The club meets at the Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St., Berkeley. Guests are welcome to attend the business meeting at 1 p.m. and the free program, which begins at 2 p.m. Details: 510-524-4374.

Video tournament

The first-ever Video Game Tournament will get underway Saturday evening, April 27, at the Albany Community Center. Organized by nine enlightened interns from the Chamber of Commerce, the tourney will feature great match-ups based upon levels of ability and age. For more information: 510-525-1771.

Readiness training

The El Cerrito Fire Department is offering free preparedness training for all disasters, natural and otherwise. The training course consists of both a

classroom session and a hands-on drill. The classroom session is from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on either Saturday, April 13 or Saturday, April 27. The hands-on drill is from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, May 11. The course is free to everyone. Reservation required. For location and reservation, contact program coordinator Pat Cafel at 510-525-7268 or cafel@juno.com.

Hoopers converge

A 3-on-3 basketball tournament will be held May 11 in Albany with the final games played May 12. Players can sign-up today to play in one of four divisions. There will be 64 teams competing for a \$500 first prize and a \$250 second prize in each division. The event also includes demonstrations from local sports programs and a chance to see the band-spanking-new gym at Albany High. Call for more information: 510-525-2716. The tournament is hosted by and benefits Albany High's athletics program.

Solano nominations

Nominations are being accepted through June 30, for the prestigious Solano Avenue Person of the Year award. Submit a minimum of one paragraph of praise, contact information and the nominee's contact information. The Solano Avenue Association board selects the winner. Last year's winner was Steve "Obi" Obichon, the avenue's postal carrier. The winner will be honored at the Solano Stroll Kickoff Party in August and gets to ride in the stroll parade during the Contact Lisa Bullwinkel at 510-527-5358.

ALBANY CHAMBER NOTES

City, chamber will mingle at mixer

By James Carter

MEMBERS OF the Albany Chamber will have the opportunity to meet city officials at a Chamber/City Sponsored Mixer, Wednesday, April 24, from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. Come over to City Hall and meet the mayor, the city administrator, your City Council, and all the folks who keep the good ship Albany afloat. (City Hall is located at 1000 San Pablo Ave., on the corner of Buchanan and Marin avenues.)

Also that night, candidates for the chamber Board of Directors will be there to hobnob, field questions, and feed your head while chamber members nimble on the terrific free fixings that have become a trademark of our mixers. Though all good time is assured to all, this will be a relatively sober occasion, if you catch my drift, and soft drinks will be sold for 50 cents a pop.

Citizen and youth awards

There are awards and there are plaques, but all dim in comparison to the honor and virtue of being recognized as Albany Citizen of the Year, or Albany Youth of the Year. If you know someone deserving of this prestigious award, a time-honored tradition something akin to Beatiification and Immortality, please submit the name, address, and phone number of the luminary you'd like to nominate, and a detailed elucidation explaining why they deserve this award. Nomination forms must be received by May 3.

After careful scrutiny and endless debate, we will choose the winners, and honor them in May at our annual Awards Mixer, hosted by Golden Gate Fields in the fabulous Turf Room. For more information: 510-525-1771, or e-mail us at albanychamber@bigplanet.com

What the doctor ordered

"What this town needs is a

little relief," Dr. T. Bellington Strange said recently. "Tarnation, people are just too uptight." The good doctor scribbled down a prescription, and this is what it said: "Take one whole dose of Memorial Park, Sunday, June 2. Avoid television and negative thoughts."

Imagine blue skies, green grass, and 10 of the best restaurants in town. Add jazz and rhythm and blues floating through the trees like jasmine, while children stand spellbound by the fabulous magician and performer, Jean-Paul Valjean.

The Doctor is talking about the Albany Spring Festival.

Part of the festivities will include a wonderful art show, right there in the Veteran's Building. Want to participate? Give us a call...

But there's more. The festival will also include a charming historical exhibit featuring photographs of Old Albany, priceless memorabilia, and an exhibit about the Huchian people — the first residents of our town. Call 510-525-1771 for more information.

New members

The Aegean Grill combines the very best of Greek, Armenian, and Turkish cuisine, offering meals that give new meaning to the term "culinary art."

Master Chef and owner Mikail Jbral joined the Albany by way of Kayseri, Turkey, Berlin, Paris, and Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto, where he fused the classical influences of the Ottoman Imperial Courts, the provincial kitchens of Turkish Pashas, and the ancient and modern cuisine of Greece and Armenia into something that is both traditional and exceptional.

"You have to be in love to be a chef," Michael explained. "This is not a job — you must be moved, you must be inspired. That is the wonderful thing about being a chef. You can create wonderful dishes that bring people pleasure.

What could be more wonderful than that?"

See for yourself. Try the Arnisia Souvlaki, marinated lamb grilled with absolute perfection, served with fresh roasted vegetables and rice, or the Xifias Sharas — fresh grilled swordfish served with artichokes, asparagus, and fresh homemade bread. Actually everything prepared at the Aegean Grill is created from fresh ingredients, from yogurt to cheese, sausages and pickles, to fresh daily baked bread and incredible deserts. The salads are also divine — try the Smyrna, for example: arrugula, baby greens, tomatoes, pine nuts, figs, and lemon-wine dressing. And the deserts of the Aegean Grill are so incredible that they are now featured by Saul's Deli, Andronicos, and the Berkeley Bowl.

Located at 1403 Solano Ave., the Aegean Grill is open daily, lunch served from 11:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., and dinner from 5:30 to 10 p.m. For more information, visit their Web site at: www.aegean.grill.com; or call: 510-559-9988.

Marylyn Pursley and Kathryn Hill — two of the most successful real estate agents and brokers in the entire Bay Area — joined seven other women and created **Thornwall Properties** 18 years ago. "We ran it cooperatively for many years," Kathryn Hill said. "Our mission from the beginning was to be honest, innovative, and caring professionals."

"Being in real estate, it is the most wonderful career in the world," Hill said. "Imagine, you experience the pleasure of dealing with people every day, and helping them with something that is very special in their lives. It's scary, but it's a huge growth experience. And when you see the look on their faces, it's wonderful."

See CHAMBER, Page A

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See CHAMBER, Page A

POLICE REPORTS

2 arrests after string of 'taggings'

By K. Osborn
CORRESPONDENT

ALBANY — At about 5 p.m. on April 2 a Camarillo man reported that his gold '94 Oldsmobile Cutlass had been stolen while parked on the 900 block of Kains Avenue. There were no witnesses to the theft.

On the evening of April 2 Oakland police reported locating a gold '90 Toyota Camry reported stolen from the 1000 block of Kains. The car was not damaged and they did not have anyone in custody. The owner was notified and the vehicle towed.

On the morning of April 3 a Ukiah man reported he had parked his red '90 Honda in front of a friend's home on the 1000 block of Kains Avenue the prior evening. When he went out for it was gone.

On the afternoon of April 3 officers stopped a black '02 Honda Accord at the Buchanan Street interchange for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 26-year-old Berkeley man, was found to have outstanding warrants from Contra Costa County for Failure to Appear in the amount of \$10,000. He was arrested, cited and released with a Notice to Appear. The second subject, a 25-year-old Kensington man, was found to be clear and allowed to depart.

On the afternoon of April 4 a resident on the 800 block of Ramona Avenue reported that during the morning vandals had broken the window of her home.

She did not see anyone do the damage.

Officers attempted to stop a red '90 Honda on the 500 block of Pierce Street for suspicious activity at about 12:30 a.m. on April 5. The driver evaded officers and later abandoned the vehicle, which turned out to be stolen. The subject was subsequently located and arrested. The 15-year-old Albany boy was charged with grand theft auto, possession of stolen property, failure to yield to an officer and driving without a license. He was transported to Juvenile Hall.

Officers took reports on two cars, parked in the vicinity of Garfield Avenue and Masonic Avenue, that had been vandalized with blue paint during the night of April 4.

On the morning of April 5 officers responded to the 800 block of Carmel Avenue on reports of two subjects going through dumpsters and pocketing papers. Officers contacted the pair. One of the subjects, a 31-year-old El Cerrito man, was found to have outstanding warrants from Alameda County in the amount of \$2,283. He was arrested, cited and released with a Notice to Appear. The second subject, a 25-year-old Kensington man, was found to be clear and allowed to depart.

At about 3 a.m. on April 6 officers observed two subjects running north through the yard

of a business on the 1000 block of Eastshore Highway and "tagging" vehicles. Both fled but were subsequently located and arrested. A 23-year-old sonville man were charged with vandalism, interfering with one doing business and conspiracy.

On the afternoon of April 6 a resident on the 1000 block of Santa Fe Avenue reported during the night vandals spray-painted his home with red and white paint.

At about 5:30 p.m. on April 6 a Jackson Street resident reported that within the previous three hours had broken into a '91 Ford Explorer parked on the 600 block of Jackson Street and stole the stereo.

A Moraga woman reported her maroon '89 Toyota Camry had been stolen on April 7 while parked on the 900 block of Ordway Street.

During the week of April 8, Albany officers towed two vehicles and responded to nine false alarms. They attended three lost or dead animals, and assisted five people who were locked out of their house or car. In the dog arena, officers responded to civil disturbances and 117 calls. Officers stopped 13 vehicles or persons issuing citations and 54 warnings. A firefighter/pamedics responded to four medical emergencies.

store on the 1100 block of Pablo Avenue.

A man was arrested on suspicion of driving while intoxicated and for possession of controlled substance on April 9 at 1:40 a.m. on April 6 at Pablo and Ohio avenues.

It was reported at 7:21 p.m. on March 24 that two rocks were thrown through the front window of a residence on the 7300 block of Schmidt Lane.

A man was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting from a store on the 1060 block of San Pablo Avenue at 6:40 p.m. on March 27.

It was reported at 9:49 a.m. on March 29 that a stereo was stolen from a vehicle on the 500 block of Avila Avenue.

A man was arrested on suspicion of being intoxicated in public on a playground on the 11000 block of San Pablo Avenue at 4:15 p.m. on March 20.

A man was arrested on suspicion of possessing heroin in his vehicle. He was passed out in his vehicle on San Pablo Avenue and Cesar Chavez Boulevard at 5:19 p.m. on March 21.

Police found the man who was passed out and blocking traffic and booked him into county jail.

DUI suspect has another reason to hate Monday

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — A 30-year-old El Cerrito man was arrested on suspicion of driving while intoxicated at 11:17 p.m. at San Pablo Avenue near Hill Street on April 8. The man had three prior convictions for driving under the influence and was on probation for the offense. The man was booked for Failure to Appear in Martinez.

The rims of a 1995 Acura parked on the 11700 block of San Pablo Avenue were stolen sometime between 9 p.m. April 1 and 8 a.m. on April 2.

A purse was stolen from El Cerrito Plaza sometime between 2 and 3 p.m. on April 3.

Property was stolen from a Toyota Camry parked on Yosemitie Avenue between 12 and 7 a.m. on March 31.

Property was stolen from a vehicle parked on the 700 block of Kearny Street sometime between 8:30 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. the night of April 3. There was also an attempt made to steal the vehicle.

A Nissan Sentra stolen from the 5800 block of El Dorado Street sometime between 6 p.m. March 31 and 1:30 p.m. the next

day was recovered a short time later on the 3400 block of Yosemitie Avenue.

A stolen Toyota pick-up was recovered on the 1700 block of Eastshore Boulevard at 6:28 a.m. on March 31.

A stolen 1984 Toyota pick-up truck was recovered on the 3100 block of Carlson Boulevard at 5:14 p.m. on April 1.

Someone attempted to steal a 1989 Toyota Camry parked on the 900 block of Kearny Street sometime between 12 and 12:30 p.m. on April 3.

A stolen 1994 Nissan Altima was recovered on the 5200 block of Central Avenue at 8:40 p.m. on April 3.

A 1987 Nissan pick-up truck was stolen from the 6800 block of Lincoln Avenue sometime between 4 and 9:30 a.m. on April 3. It was later located on the 5800 block of San Diego Street.

An employee was arrested at 12 a.m. on March 29 on suspicion of stealing \$1200 from a

Albany SchoolCARE sets music benefit

A benefit for Albany SchoolCARE featuring live music and dancing, snacks, desserts, beer, wine and soda will be held from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Friday, April 19 at the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. SchoolCARE (Citizens of Albany to Rescue Education) is a grassroots group

of teachers and parents that raises money for Albany schools.

Albany's Family Pub Night will include Chameleon, a Celtic and traditional music and dance group, along with Cole Valley Ramblers, a bluegrass, acoustic rock and folk ensemble featuring Marin Elementary School

parent Burke Trieschmann.

Adult tickets are \$15 and includes two free drinks; a family ticket is \$30 and includes free drinks per person up to four people; and children's tickets are \$5. To order tickets e-mail ica@robynjohnson.net or call 559-8969.

THE JOURNAL

4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA. 94806 • 510-243-3575

Published every Friday • Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays

Shareef Dajani, general manager • Deborah Byrd, Hills editor

Deborah Byrd, editor Chris Treadaway, news editor

Subscriptions are \$30 per year if carrier-delivered within the Journal's circulation area. Mail subscriptions within the United States are \$100 per year. To subscribe or report a delivery problem call 800-598-4637.

EDITORIAL

All items for publication should reach us 10 days in advance of publication and may be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed.

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IN BRIEF

Creek workshops offered to Contra Costa educators

RICHMOND — A respected nonprofit group is offering hands-on environmental training this month to Contra Costa County educators interested in bringing an understanding of the region's creeks and watersheds to their students.

Aquatic Outreach Institute program coordinator Christin Jolicoeur said the Kids in Creeks workshop will run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on two consecutive Saturdays starting April 27 at Baxter Creek and the University of California, Berkeley Field Station in Richmond.

Jolicoeur said participants in the program will learn to monitor water quality, stencil storm drains, identify native California plants, sample for aquatic insects and teach about creeks and watersheds across the curriculum. She says participants in the program, whether formal or non-formal educators, will gain access to grant funds of up to \$2,000 to carry out their own creek- and garden-related projects.

Pre-registration, which is required, costs \$25 and includes a curriculum guide and extensive resource materials, Jolicoeur said. Individuals can register by downloading a registration form at <http://www.aoinstitute.org> or by contacting Scott Weintraub at the institute, where his phone number is 510-231-5655.

Service clubs holding night at the theater

ALBANY — "Oliver! and More!" is a cultural event sponsored by the Albany Soroptimist and Rotary clubs set for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 9 at the Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave. at Moeser in El Cerrito.

Enjoy CCCT's production of the award-winning play, as well as a silent auction, complimentary desserts and coffee, and no host bar at this event sponsored by the Albany Soroptimist and Rotary clubs. The silent auction starts at 6:30 p.m. At 7:30 p.m. the curtain rises on the musical "Oliver!" The silent auction will conclude during intermission.

Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors and children, \$10 for four-ticket family package. All proceeds from the event are used to fund Soroptimist and Rotary community service projects.

For more information, call Kathy Lee at 524-6308, or drop by and purchase tickets at the Albany Adult School, 601 San Gabriel Ave. or contact a friend who is an Albany Soroptimist or Rotarian.

Puppets in the Park' day for the family

EL CERRITO — On Saturday, May 4 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Berkeley Hills Nursery School will present the second annual Puppets in the Park community event, featuring an exciting circus adventure with The Puppet Company in Arlington Park on Aragon Boulevard.

Young and old alike will enjoy a host of entertainers, a magician, balloon creations by Nanzu the Clown and Boris the Travelling Minstrel. Pack a lunch and bring the whole family to this entertainment extravaganza featuring The Puppet Company and friends.

In addition, raffle tickets are being sold for prizes donated by restaurants, theaters and businesses from all over the Bay Area. Puppets in the Park is a great way to spend a family in our community, supporting a preschool that serves Oakland, Berkeley, Kensington, Albany and El Cerrito families. For more information or raffle tickets call 510-548-9248.

Postal Service offers tax filing tips

Taxpayers have one week left to file their state and federal tax forms and U.S. Postal Service officials are offering advice for sending last-minute tax returns.

Officials say the Postal Service processes mail around the clock and on weekends. Tax filers are encouraged to drop off their mailings over the weekend in order to avoid the mad dash to the post office on Monday, April 15.

As an added convenience to give taxpayers a little peace of mind, the IRS will accept the postmark on Priority Mail with Delivery Confirmation service as validation of timely filing. Priority Mail with Delivery Confirmation service provides a receipt of mailing for record-keeping purposes and allows the customer to confirm online at www.usps.com, or through the toll-free number 800-222-1811, that the mail was delivered to the IRS.

In addition, Certified Mail provides proof of mailing and delivery of tax returns. Certified Mail is available only for First-Class Mail or Priority Mail.

The postal service also offers the following tips to help customers file their taxes on time:

■ Mail before April 15 and mail early in the day.

■ Post offices have a limited supply of tax forms. Obtain any forms needed from the IRS or State Franchise Tax Board in plenty of time to file returns.

■ Be sure to use sufficient postage. One ounce is 34 cents. Each additional ounce up to 13 ounces costs an additional 23 cents. The IRS and FTB will not pay postage due.

■ Use a secure envelope if mailing a bulky return. USPS Priority Mail envelopes are free.

■ If not using pre-addressed envelopes that have been provided by the IRS, be sure to address the envelope clearly and correctly, using the correct zip code.

■ Be sure envelopes are properly sealed.

■ Always use a return address.

■ If mailing in a collection box, deposit mail prior to the last scheduled pickup time.

■ Consider using Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested or Priority Mail with Delivery Confirmation.

■ Make sure returns are complete before sealing the envelope.

Customers can find additional information at www.usps.com or by calling 1-800-ASK-USPS. Customers can also find the "Locate Post Offices" feature on the USPS home page, which will provide office locales, their hours of operation and the latest collection times.

Soroptimists set chef show and wine tasting

RICHMOND — Soroptimist International of Richmond, the world's largest service organization for business and professional women, will host "Culinary Carpet" — annual Chef Show and Wine Tasting" on Sunday, April 21, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Admission is \$30, for reservations prior to the event and \$35 at the door. The event will take place at Rockefeller Lodge, 2650 Market St., San Pablo.

Prominent chefs and caterers from the bay area will serve appetizers, entrees and desserts and noted vintners will showcase their wines. Breweries are also donating their fine beer.

A partial list restaurants and caterers participating include: Hotel Mac, Chez Panisse Salute Ristorante, La Strada, Casino San Pablo Broiler, Bear Claw Bakery, Andronico's, Contra Costa College Gourmet Bakery, Bianco's

See BRIEFS, Page A6

Dog-mauling case teaches a lesson: Be prepared

HERE ARE IMPORTANT lessons to be learned from the San Francisco dog-mauling case that recently resulted in a verdict of second-degree murder for one of the dog's owners.

One thing the case should tell us is that we should take threats from clearly dangerous dogs seriously.

Even a minor bite should be followed by at least a talk with the animal's owners, and the filing of a police report. If you still have to be in the dog's vicinity, it would be a good idea to carry some means of protection, such as pepper spray.

Bob Weaver, proprietor of the Old West Gun Room in El Cerrito, says that while mace affects humans, it is useless on dogs, although it. The pepper spray has mace with it, so it is definitely the better choice. You can buy a can of pepper spray at the gun room for \$12.75. (A buyer must be 18 years of age.) Cheap enough to give some peace of mind and maybe save your life or that of another.

I know an Albanian who carries pepper spray and says he has turned away threatening people twice by just aiming the container at them.

If you use a cane, as I do, you have an excellent means of defense against any number of dogs. (The law won't let me pack a rod, but my staff confirms me.) Dogs are very wary of sticks or of anything in your hand if you take a defensive posture that makes it clear to them you will stand and fight.

Twice in recent years I have been set on by pairs of large dogs. On both occasions I pointed my cane at the end of the lead dog's nose. This brought them both up short. A dog has no hands with which to disarm you, and knows it. Dogs are pack animals, and

they all stop, although one may try to work around behind you. I walked right through a pack of four or five aggressive dogs for several years going to and from work nights at Mandrake's at 10th Street and University Avenue in Berkeley.

if you hold off the leader, they all stop, although one may try to work around behind you. I walked right through a pack of four or five aggressive dogs for several years going to and from work nights at Mandrake's at 10th Street and University Avenue in Berkeley.

I carried my doorman's club in a paper bag and displayed it to the mutts when they came after me. That, and reminding them they were all sons of b—s, was all it took to keep them off me.

Even though these dogs never got near me, they didn't quit trying. The closest they came was when I was assisting an inebriated friend to my car. They sensed a kill, but they didn't quite get it.

Like most human bullies, dog bullies are cowards, or — as they doubtless see it — pragmatists. People who try to intimidate others have an ego involvement to consider that dogs don't. When they think the odds are against them — and they are very good at judging them — they back off. Unless, of course, they are trained attack dogs, but these are almost always under the control of police officers.

If you are set upon by a dog, do not run unless you are absolutely sure you can win the race to safety. If you run and he catches you, you will certainly be bitten. The best thing to do is to look for a stick or almost anything you can lift — furniture, a box, a garbage can,

DAVE GREER
Man About Town

wolves try to snap each other's legs. Dogs also have very sensitive noses, and a good crack on the end of the snout may remind an attacker of business elsewhere.

If a dog gets close enough to leap at your throat and face, block him with your forearm. This is known as "feeding him an arm." You will be bitten on the arm, but that's better than your throat or face.

If the dog is hanging on your arm, jab him in the eyes with your first two fingers until he lets go. Then kick him. And if you carry a knife that can be opened with one hand — and there are good, legal types available — this would be the time to introduce him to it.

I have headed off dog attacks several times by taking a defensive posture with my pocket knife held in front of me. The animals probably did not know what I was holding as their sight is quite poor, but they knew by my stance I had something dangerous to them.

About anything in your hand that gives you confidence will do. Even a shoe or belt might work for you. This is all ugly work; however, with increasing numbers of dogs biting an estimated six million people a year, it is better to be prepared than disfigured or dead.

Children, the infirm, and the elderly are most at risk, but we are all potential victims. The good news is that dogs can be kept at bay relatively easily if you know how to do it. And a fight with a dog can be won if you keep your head and do what needs to be done. So be ready: The Diana Whipple case has taught us how much we can depend on others for assistance when the chips are down.

Scoops for Schools event is April 28

The Albany Education Foundation invites family, friends and neighbors to its annual ice cream social, Scoops for Schools, on Sunday, April 28, from 1-4 p.m. at the Albany Community Center, 1217 Marin Ave.

Organizers say the popular event of music, art and ice cream is the AEF's opportunity to thank its donors, volunteers, and grant recipients for all of the support the organization receives during the year.

E-mail letters and other submissions to us at

journal@cctimes.com

Chamber

FROM PAGE A2

faces when they've made their dream come true, it's incredible. Sometimes, I feel like I'm a midwife..."

Thornwall Properties now has 17 agents that cover the East Bay from Hercules to Oakland. Known for their highly personal approach and artistic skills, Thornwall still makes use of the cooperative approach, drawing from the experience all agents.

Located at 1656 Shattuck Ave. in Berkeley, office hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday, other days by appointment. Their website, located at www.thornwallproperties.com, includes complete listings and information about all agents. Phone: 510-848-1950.

Barbara and Marty Kaplan are two incredibly skilled professionals and long-term residents of Albany, each with talents that compliment the other.

Marty is an organizational consultant with Avista Consult-

ing, a profession he loves and has pursued with passion for 30 years. "It's a joy, really," Marty said, "when you can help facilitate real dialogue within a company or a firm, and can help get people talking and figuring out ways to adopt to changing business conditions, it's great; it's a lot of fun."

Marty has done a lot of consulting work with the construction industry, health care providers, universities, and in the publishing industry. A long-term resident of Albany, Marty is also an avid cyclist. You might see him battling Marin Avenue, a challenge he often accepts, pedaling his way straight up hill all the way to Grizzly Peak.

Yet Marty's true passion is his relationship with wife, Barbara, a hard-working professional if there ever was one. Barbara is the Publisher of

Dance Magazine, what many consider the premier dance publication in the country.

Celebrating its 75th anniversary in June, Dance Magazine combined forces with American Dancer in 1927, and has dominated the field ever since. For many years, Dance was a family-run business — Barbara's family, in fact, Barbara beginning her work there in 1978, and has been the publisher there for four years now. She also has 20 years of experience directing non-profit art organizations.

The Chinese Art Ministry recently invited the Kaplans to visit China, one of many destinations visited by this busy couple from Albany.

Contact the Albany Chamber of Commerce at 510-525-1771 or e-mail albanychamber@bigplanet.com

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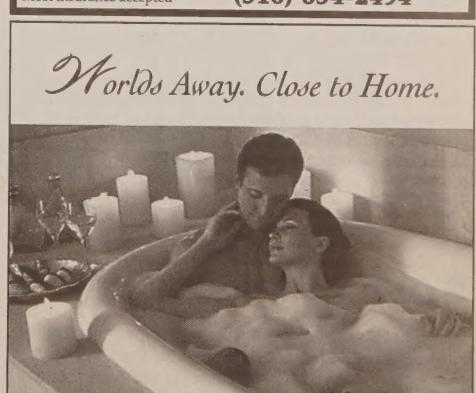
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PORCHER
American Standard

Opinion

EDITORIALS

Tending our garden

SATURDAY MORNINGS in spring are the perfect time for getting out in the garden. On April 22, the equivalent of a morning in the public's "gardens" can earn you a greater sense of pride and ownership in your community.

April 22 is when El Cerrito celebrates Earth Day with its annual morning cleanup of public areas at parks along streets and creeks, on school grounds. The event brings out hundreds of community members who clean, weed, plant and paint.

The event requires no more effort than would a morning working in your yard and the payoff will extend beyond the free barbecue lunch at the event's conclusion.

El Cerrito's Earth Day is a perfect time to devote a few hours to improving where you live and it is the perfect event for families to teach their children the value of community service. Imagine the pride your family can experience in the coming weeks and even years on seeing freshly planted and cleaned areas grow with new life. Imagine the feeling of knowing you played a role each time you walk, jog (or even drive) by and see the results. Imagine the invaluable lesson your children can learn about their part of being caretakers of where they live.

The celebration exemplifies Earth Day at its most basic, yet most important level: doing something to make your environment — everyone's environment — better. It exemplifies a community's pride, caring and concern for where it lives. Come spend a few hours, meet some like-minded folks and be a part of it.

Good admission news

ONE OF THE NEWS stories that deserved better play than it has received is that revelation that minority admissions at the University of California this year topped the 1997 level. That is significant because 1997 was the last year of admissions before the UC system initiated a ban on admissions based on racial preferences.

Contrary to many dire and even hysterical predictions at the time, neither the UC ban nor the passage by the voters in 1996 of Proposition 209 has crippled minority representation on the state's top college campuses. In fact, we believe that it has created an environment in which minorities can better succeed and flourish.

More than 19 percent of the students admitted to UC schools last year were minorities with Latinos setting a record for the second straight year.

It is true that minority admissions dropped in the few years following the ban and passage of Prop. 209, but that clearly was a temporary anomaly that existed while the UC system learned to deal with its new reality. The system has generally done a good job dealing with that new reality.

The increase in minority admissions to the UC system over the last couple of years is caused by a combination of factors. One of those factors is the ever-changing demographics of the state of California, which continues to become more ethnically diverse every year. It continues to provide a larger pool of minority applicants.

Another important factor is that the university system made concerted efforts over the last few years to reach out to underrepresented minorities. While they did not offer preferences for admission based on race, they spent a great deal of time and energy actively recruiting minority students to apply to the UC system. Again, such action enlarges the pool of minority applicants.

There have been other factors as well, some of which were imposed by the Legislature. Many factors have worked in concert to bring about this representation increase and they have done so without being unfair to white students.

Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, who has frequently criticized the university, offered his praise for the improved numbers, but warned that there is more to do. We agree with him.

The UC ban on preferences is often incorrectly characterized as a ban on affirmative action. But it wasn't a ban on affirmative action — it was a ban simply on using race as a basis for admission.

Affirmative action still exists today in many, many forms. It offers minority students opportunities to get aid and assistance they might need so that they may avail themselves of a quality education.

These increasing numbers are a good sign we expect that they will continue to climb for some time to come. The UC system should keep up the good work.

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

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DON'T FORGET IT'S TAX TIME

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Terrorists in fur

It's about time the authorities cracked down on irresponsible dog owners.

I have not forgotten the time that five pit bulls chased me into busy traffic, nearly getting me killed. I have not forgotten the big Rottweiler that wouldn't let me leave my house for work one morning.

I have not forgotten the man teasing a little puppy that looked to him for love, and telling me he did it to make him mean, "so he'll be a good guard dog."

And none of us should ever forget the little Richmond boy who will go through life scarred, traumatized, and without ears, because of battle-trained dogs mauling him.

Now we have murder-by-canine to add to the list of horrors. Enough!

There are sane ways to raise a dog to know the difference between a dangerous intruder and a resident passing on the street. There are sane ways to vent your aggression without training animals to shed their blood for your sorry pride.

People who raise innocent beasts to be their hit-men deserve the same penalty as someone who trains terrorists and lets them loose upon the world.

Dolores J. Nurs
El Cerrito

Accuracy problem

Perhaps in some alternate universe my car was reported stolen from the 1100 block of Garfield Street, in Albany — but as for the here and now, my car was "broken into" on the 1100 block of Garfield Avenue."

I realize that compared to the large issues of the world, these points are rather minor. But if the Journal can't get these simple facts straight, dare we trust the accuracy of anything else you publish?

Ellen Jeffords
Albany

Peace formula

Here is what must be done to end terrorism:

- Establish a Palestinian state.
- Bring in U.N. peacekeeping troops to enforce non-violence in Israel/Palestine while peace agreements are being made and fully carried out. End any further U.S. military supplies to Israel.
- Provide humanitarian aid to get the Palestinians out of refugee camps. End the Israeli policy of denying them building permits, then demolishing their homes. Define money for compensating Israeli settlers who must vacate their illegal settlements.

■ Ariel Sharon must step down from power. He is the very architect of the illegal Israeli settlements and is the greatest obstacle to peace.

■ President Bush must cultivate relations with Israeli and Palestinian peace organizations, which have steadfastly

maintained dialogue despite the violent extremists on both sides. Give more news coverage to these organizations to publicize that good will exists. See a listing at www.ariga.com.

When the Palestinians can build homes for themselves, we will not need to spend billions of tax dollars on security systems, military build-up, shadow governments, or attacking Iraq.

The Palestinians can begin to live in dignity, and Israelis — and the rest of the world — can begin to live without the fear of terrorism.

Nancy Kiang
Kensington

Facts for taxpayers

Here are a few facts taxpayers of El Cerrito (and other cities in California) need to know about a city's redevelopment agency.

Redevelopment agencies came into being in 1948 to remedy wartime neglect. At that time, voters approved a state law providing for those agencies to eliminate blight in our cities.

One of the most odious features of the redevelopment agencies is the power of eminent domain, which can force a person or a business to surrender their property, possibly over their objection. It may be said that the agencies are autocratic and may violate personal rights.

When property is seized to promote a new business or public housing, the property taxes from that location do not go to city treasuries but back to the redevelopment agencies, placing a greater burden on the other taxpayers.

Today, the El Cerrito Plaza has shown great development without tax money. A city needs to provide but three things: fire protection, police services and an honest city government — nothing more.

John Hogan
El Cerrito

Let's stop this war!

We may be ignoring our real enemies in the Middle East just because it seems hard to focus our eyes on our "friends" long enough to see them as they really are behind their fine clothes.

Far easier just to vent our rage on the more vulnerable and miserable rebels, protesters, guerrillas, insurgents, gypsies, migrants, darker skinned non-Christians. Far easier just to close our eyes and pull the triggers or drop the bombs.

I'm not much impressed by our murderer of thousands of civilians in Afghanistan or our other so-called successes there.

Let us stop this miserable World War III.

Terry Cochrell
Berkeley

Help poor children

Some 12 million U.S. children under

the age of 18, about 16 percent, live poverty, defined by the government as income below \$17,650 for a family of four. Undernourished children may suffer irreversible cognitive and psychological impairment.

Deborah Weinstein of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) said, "Other countries do a better job of protecting the children than the United States does. In terms of children's allowances or family allowances through the tax system or social service system, and we don't offer the kind of income supplements or wage supplements that are offered in other countries."

CDF is a private, nonprofit organization that lobbies on behalf of children, learn how your church or organization may endorse the CDF, or to learn about the Movement to Leave No Child Behind, log onto www.childrensdefense.org.

Deena Lahn is the director of the Oakland office. She can be reached at 510-663-3224.

Joan Bartulovic
El Cerrito

Ignoring reality

President Bush thinks he knows about the evil souls of terrorists. He and Donald Rumsfeld spend much face time teaching us that suicide bombers are sick fanatics.

But if all Americans were required to read and discuss intelligently the newspaper stories about Wafa Idriss, a recent woman Palestinian suicidist, I think Bush and his expanding war on terrorism would be laughed out of the White House.

Idriss was an ordinary, not very successful 28-year-old woman, driven to mental despair by the Israeli war effort against the Palestinians.

Her family lives in a forlorn refugee camp. She saw people, including children, blown to bits before her eyes by Mid-East superpower.

She attended to the suffering, as a Red Cross volunteer. Exactly as Ariel Sharon and Bush ordained it, she could envision no future for her people or herself — only endless war, suffering, death, pain, and military failure.

She wasn't a political activist. In the end, her mother was proud she sacrificed her life, as many of us might be if she were our child.

We dehumanize people and set them on the desperate path to bomb us.

This is not al-Qaida. It's the harsh reality we ignore.

Marc Saper
Berkeley

Thanks for generosity

On behalf of the Albany Education Foundation, I want to thank Sam and Philip Chin for generously offering the

See LETTERS, Page A6

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

Lasting legacies inspired by young lives that were cut short

MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

HOW DO YOU measure a person's life? If you only measure by years, Marjory Bidwell and Gabe Gabe didn't amount to much. They died from acute neuroblastoma before she reached her 21st birthday, and he died from leukemia before he was

But if you measure a life by positive impact it had on others, then Marjory and Gabe went to the head of the class.

She was a delightful little girl, even though she's been gone for four years, is still remembered fondly by all the staff at Children's Hospital. They still smile when they talk about how much she loved playing dress-up: beads, frilly dresses, the works. Even on days when she was feeling really bad, she always clutched her cherished change purse to her side.

"She used it to carry coins put in the candy machines," says her mom, Rose Barrett. "She never ate the candy because she was too sick to have an appetite, but she loved saving those coins in the machine anyway."

Gabe was a supremely talented athlete, one of those people

who can pick up a sport for the first time and immediately be better at it than people who have been playing it their whole lives. His sister Jessamyn remembers how he would play the first half of a soccer game, then race to the gym at halftime to wrestle for the school wrestling team, then race back to the soccer field to play the second half.

All this time, he was battling leukemia and the side effects of his medication. "But he was determined not to let any of it get in the way of having fun," says Jessamyn.

We'll never have the pleasure of watching Gabe lead the U.S. soccer team to the gold medal in the 2005 World Cup. And we'll never see the stunning fashions Marjory would have created when she grew up to be a designer. (Whether she would have done this before or

after her two terms in the White House is an open question.) But they left a different kind of legacy, by changing the lives of the people who knew them.

Inspired by Marjory's courage, her mom continues to support the other kids in the oncology ward. Every Halloween — Marjory's favorite holiday — she brings them trick-or-treat packages. And every year on Marjory's birthday, she brings them toys.

Meanwhile, Marjory's best friend, Britt Lindberg, is now 7. This year, she took all the presents she got for her birthday and donated them to the kids at Children's Hospital in Marjory's memory.

Gabe's parents were the moving force behind the creation of Gabe Catalfo Field at Harrison Park (on the Berkeley/Albany border), turning a dangerous patch of weeds and debris into a safe playing field for children, complete with lights. It's the kind of field Gabe would have enjoyed playing on.

But it's his friends who provided the best tribute. They are seven amazing young women — all jocks, just like Gabe — named Mia Arakaki, Alice

Brugger, Mariko Holland, Esther Schmidt, Rachel Williams, Chelsea Zussman and Gabriela Casal. Collectively, they call themselves the Berkeley Breeze.

All of them are long-distance runners — except Gabriela, who blew out her knees in a skiing accident, so she became the team manager. And they ran with a purpose: to raise money to build a germ-free common room at Children's Hospital, where kids with severely compromised immune systems, like Gabe and Marjory, can hang out, play video games or just be kids together.

"We'd go visit Gabe, and he'd be stuck in his little room all day," recalls Gabriela. "So was every other kid on the floor. It was like they were all in jail."

So they ran. And ran. And ran. Their total take: more than \$30,000, enough to provide seed money for the project. Last Friday, the Marjory Bidwell/Gabe Catalfo Immunocompromised Patient Unit was officially opened at Children's Hospital.

(Actually, it's been up and running for almost three months — "as soon as the paint

was dry," says Children's Hospital CEO Tony Paap. But this was the official ribbon cutting.)

"It's making all the difference in the lives of these children," says staffer Rebecca Rice. "To see them laughing and playing with each other like this, instead of just lying all day in their lonely rooms ..."

The ribbon was cut by two current residents of the unit, Sherrie Poats and Nicole Jones. Marjory's mom was there for the occasion, and so were Gabe's parents and sisters.

Marjory's friend, Britt Lindberg, couldn't make it; she had to be in school. Neither could most of the Berkeley Breeze; they're now freshmen in college, scattered all over the country. The only one who could come was Gabriela, who drove up from UC Santa Cruz for the day. But they're all in constant e-mail contact, and after the ceremony she rushed off to send them a detailed report.

Mia is at Yale, playing for the varsity soccer team. Mariko is studying Japanese at Vassar. Chelsea is immersing herself in sorority life at Michigan. Esther is at Wisconsin, exploring a newfound passion for wilderness programs. Alice is in film

school at UCLA. Rachel is rowing for the varsity crew at Westleyan. And Gabriela is teaching Salsa dancing while she studies Latin American culture at Santa Cruz.

As for Britt, she's a curious second-grader with compassion beyond her years. Even though she was only 3 when Marjory died, she remembers her friend and misses her.

For both Marjory and Gabe's parents, it's a great comfort to see some of their children's spirit in their young friends. "Gabriela is like a daughter to us, and the others are also good friends," says Gabe's father, Phil Catalfo. "We already knew they were great people, but now we're just in awe of them."

Britt and the Breeze are honoring Marjory and Gabe's memories, not by living the life they would have lived, but by living their own lives to the fullest.

Phone Martin Snapp at 510-273-9039, e-mail him at catman@california.com, or write him c/o Hills Newspapers, 1969 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA 94611.

Scottish Fiddlers to entertain

By Mary Reiley
STAFF WRITER

Don't let the name fool you. San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers has talented musicians from around the Bay Area, including Cerrito, San Pablo and Berkeley, and from throughout the state. Some come from as far as Oregon, Colorado, Ohio and even Canada to play the music they

I sat in on a rehearsal recently and was enchanted by the spirit and family that prevails among the players. Members

age in from children

through seniors, with professional musicians and amateurs.

The group is preparing for a series of concerts, the first

scheduled for 8 p.m. today at

Scottish Rite Center, 1547

Excessive Drive, Oakland.

The Scottish Fiddlers group

is directed by master fiddler

Edgar Fraser, described by

as one of the best to

come out of Scotland. He lives

in Northern California with his

Sally Ashcraft, and their

team, and his work can be

seen in films such as "Titanic"

"Last of the Mohicans," as

well as on several albums and

concert video. He and

Edgar are the founders of

Fraser uses his fiddle to

convey a style or feeling

wants the players to put into

music. He used humor to

the best from the 75 or so

years at the rehearsal I attended. "I like this groove

we're building on," he said with a twinkle in his eye. "Does someone have a way of recapturing that?"

The "groove" kept going as the players worked on traditional tunes for the concert, such as "Highland Laddies" and "Farewell to the Creeks."

Fiddler Shelly Romalis of Berkeley calls Fraser an "amazing" musical director.

"We appreciate his talents and feel privileged to be part of the group he started in his living room in 1986," she said.

While she was living in Canada, Romalis fell in love with Cape Breton music, a percussive style of the Highland Scottish tradition. She wanted to play the music and started looking for a group to join. While visiting the Bay Area, she found the fiddlers in a roundabout way, through a phone book listing for a Scottish dance group. Regardless of the route, she's glad to have made the connection.

Romalis happily traveled from Toronto to the Bay Area for various Fiddlers' events before moving to Berkeley. For her, being part of the group was worth the time and effort.

"This club is not just about the music but about community," she said. "No matter what level of competence, professional to beginner, you are welcome."

Now she coordinates the concerts for the group. One of her biggest challenges, she

said, is to figure out how to fit 100 people on a stage.

Friday's concert will be followed by another at 8 p.m. Saturday in Santa Rosa, and a matinee at 3 p.m. April 14 in San Francisco.

Besides fiddles, the music will come from a piano, harp, bass fiddle, cellos, guitars and percussion. A nyckelharpa, a Scandinavian instrument akin to the fiddle, also will be featured.

In the percussion section, a tambourine, the Celtic bodhran drums, an African djembe drum and a smaller dumbek will keep rhythm, along with any toe-tapping that may spontaneously erupt in the audience.

Dr. Connie Gaultier Muir, president of the group and a family practitioner in Berkeley, explained for me the difference between a violin and a fiddle.

"It's in the attitude of the musician and what kind of music you play," she said.

Much of what fiddlers play comes from folk tradition, passed on by ear rather than written down, Gaultier Muir said, with spontaneous improvisation. Classical musicians, on the other hand, play music that has been written down with exact notation.

In fiddle music, there's



AT A RECENT REHEARSAL Kathy Selby of Berkeley, right, warms up with other members of the San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers before they perform at the Claremont Hotel retirement community in Oakland. In the background are Connie Muir, left, and Mary Margaret McMurtry.

more freedom for the musician to change it depending on the mood, to embellish and add to it and alter its mood."

The concerts will include marches, airs, jigs and reels, with solos by Fraser and others in the group, a little singing and some step-dancing.

Tickets for the performances are \$18 general and \$15 students and seniors.

The Santa Rosa concert will be in the Jackson Theater at Sonoma County Day School, 4400 Day School Place. Call 707-527-0693 for information or tickets.

The April 14 performance will be at San Francisco's Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave.

For tickets to the Oakland

and San Francisco performances, call City Box Office at 415-392-4400.

For group rates or other information, call 510-548-0802.

Call Mary Reiley at 510-262-2784, e-mail mreiley@ctimes.com, or write to her at 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806. Our fax is 510-262-2776.

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NEW AT PORTOLA:

Melanie Spears, right, started her new post as principal of

Portola Middle School, in El Cerrito on Monday. During lunch she went out to get acquainted with the students, like

Alvin Collins a seventh grader.

Previously Spears was the principal of

Ford Elementary School in Richmond.

HERMAN BUSTAMANTE JR./STAFF

**EL CERRITO PTA NEWS****Bayside Council**

April 15, Meeting and elections - 7 p.m. in the faculty room at Pinole Middle School. Guests include Terry Jackson, UTR President and Melko Lee from the East Bay Center for Performing Arts.

Adams Middle School

Join the PTA for \$7 per member. Send your payment of \$7 per member and include the member's name, address, phone number, student's name, along with the e-mail address. Send your membership to Adams PTA, 5000 Patterson Circle, Richmond, CA 94805. PTA Voice Message Box: Weekly updates of what is happening at school. The number to call is (510) 464-1360, ext 70

E-mail Group - Weekly e-mail bulletins sent. Send your e-mail address to cchan2429@aol.com

Harding Elementary

Thursday is Pizza Night. Order a pizza from Pizza Roma, 10616 San Pablo Ave. in the Moeser Lane shopping center, and mention that it's for Harding and 25 percent will go to the school. Pizza Roma's phone number is 525-8554.

Share old and new traditions at Harding's annual Multi-cultural Night on May 2 in the school lunchroom. Bring

a dish, sing a song, tell a story or share something of your culture with others while learning about theirs. Details: Julie, 510-235-1952.

Castro Elementary

April 8-19, Third Grade Swim - attention all third graders...don't forget your towels and swimsuits everyday.

April 15, Site Council Meeting, 3 p.m. in the library.

April 19, Science Fair Projects due, 8:30am in the multipurpose room.

April 25, Science Fair Awards Ceremony, 7 p.m. in the multipurpose room.

Fundraisers: Castro is enrolled in eScrip (#ID#137627554). Albertson's, Target, and SchoolPop fundraising programs. Call Peggy Wilcox at 236-0761 to find out how you can benefit Castro when you shop.

E Cerrito High

ECHS is having its annual spring cleanup this Saturday, April 13, from 10-2 p.m. The students will be concentrating on the front off the school and the much needed area on Ashbury Avenue. Parents are asked to bring gardening equipment.

The Junior Prom is being held at the Radisson Hotel in the Berkeley Marina on Friday, April 19. The Senior Ball is being held at the Grand Hyatt, Union Square in San Francisco on Saturday,

April 27. Tickets are on sale at the cashier's window.

Reno Trip tickets are now available. The Reno Trip is on Saturday May 11. For \$35, you get a ride on a charter bus, \$16 cash back and \$2 in food money. Support the Class of 02 by buying a ticket today. For tickets, either call the school at 510-825-0234 ext. 3661 or email Rachel Sacher at rsacher@wccusd.k12.ca.us.

NEW SCRIP SALES: El Cerrito High School PTSA is enrolled in the eScrip program. Our group ID is 5221087. Keep informed: Join the ECHS e-mail forum. To sign up, please e-mail Joann Steck-Bayat at jsbayat@attbi.com.

Portola Middle School

April 18, PTA meeting - 7:15 p.m. in the library. Next year's budget will be reviewed.

Teen Center - Monday through Thursday from 3p.m. to 5p.m. at the Community Center. Fee: \$6 drop in or \$50 monthly. Great activities, trips and special events. Call 215-4370 for more information.

E-mail forum - school information and meeting notices direct to your e-mail box. Send your e-mail address and request to be on the mail list to Kathy Travlos travlos@nai.com.

Items? Call Linda Takimoto at 237-6183 or e-mail: Itakimoto@yahoo.com

Staff Room Scrip Orders: Call Helene Class at 510-526-4902 or e-mail Helene at h.class@att.net Paper Scrip for sale in the office Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30 a.m. and Monday and Friday at 9:30 a.m.

REMINDER: Save and turn in General Mills box tops for education to office.

Cornell Elementary School

Interested parents may receive important announcements by e-mail. Contact Barbara Grady-Ayer at gradyayer@aol.com

April 17, PTA Meeting, 7p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

SCRIP Orders: Call Edna Shipley at 510-527-0745 or e-mail Edna at Ednaming@aol.com

Marin Elementary School

Interested parents may receive important announcements by e-mail. Contact Tree Stuber at martinetree@aol.com

April 18, PTA Meeting, 7p.m., Marin

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 510-525-0363 or e-mail: kayweinstein@yahoo.com

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Ocean View Elementary

Interested parents may receive important announcements by e-mail. Contact Dolores Dalton at ddolenz@pvt.net

April 13, Walkathon, 8a.m.-1p.m., fun, great food, entertainment, face painting, stilts lady, raffle.

SCRIP Orders: Call Kim Denton at 510-524-3355 RECYCLE used computer printer cartridges from your home or office. Look for bins in the library.

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A group for grown-ups who appreciate their dolls

COLLECTING DOLLS can be a serious business, but it's also a lot of fun. Just ask the Gateview Dollers. Or President Reagan.

That would be Ellene Reagan, current president of the doll-collecting club.

She heard of the group about three years ago when the club had an exhibit at the Richmond Library.

"The ladies were so nice," Reagan says, "and the display was so good. I had heard of the group before, but had never gotten involved. This exhibit gave me a little push, so I got into it."

With sponsorship from an-

other member, Reagan attended the required three meetings and was voted in.

The club has programs every month, presentations for which members research the history of the dolls they have brought and cover everything from hairstyles and clothing and where and when the dolls were made to what was going on in the world at the time they were made.

Dollers members collect all kinds of dolls. Some specialize in particular types or eras, while others are generalists, like Reagan. But all share a passion for dolls.

At Reagan's home, for in-

ALL DOLLED UP

The Gateview Dollers meet on the third Monday of each month, except July and August. For more information call 510-223-6534.

The United Federation of Doll Clubs is in Kansas City, Missouri. Telephone 816-891-7040 or <http://www.ufdc.org>.

stance, dolls have taken over and fill shelves everywhere. Born and raised in Richmond, she still lives there. She and her late husband, William, raised two daughters in Rich-

mond. She worked in San Francisco before staying home with her children, and later worked part-time for Macy's in Richmond.

Reagan started her collection with dolls from her childhood in the 1940s. Because of the war, dollmakers could not use the fine materials at that time, such as the lovely porcelain heads that were so popular before the war, so they used other materials. Most of her collection dates from the '40s and '50s.

"I am not so much into the newer dolls," she said, "although I do have a few. I have a very mixed collection."

There is one doll from about 1915, which belonged to her mother, plus some antique and some modern dolls.

She's well-versed in popular dolls such as the Nancy Ann dolls that were made for years in San Francisco.

And like many collectors, she covets the Gene dolls made by artist Mel Odom, for their fine craftsmanship. But they're expensive, Reagan says. She only buys them second-hand.

There are many doll clubs in the Bay Area, Reagan says. She even has a pen pal who's a collector in Germany, though the pastime is not as popular there.

She also collects cream



CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

pitchers and ceramic ladies shoes. She had other collections—but found they took up too much room.

Do you know of an interesting person, place or group in the El Cerrito, Albany or Kensington area and would make a good subject for this column? If so, please write me at 555 Pierce St., No. 443, Albany, CA 94706 or call 525-4585. My e-mail is crgenser@aol.com.

Perks

FROM PAGE A1

Administrators. In California, districts have seen applications for superintendent jobs drop by about 60 percent in the past 10 years.

It's difficult to find a good fit between a superintendent and a community, Loveall said, and fewer candidates mean a district is less likely to find the kind of superintendent it wants.

Administrators say the job has become less attractive because it has become more difficult. With new high-stakes accountability systems, superintendents are under intense public scrutiny and political pressure to improve student performance fast.

In California, superintendents can lose their jobs if the state does not see results. That's a big risk for a job that doesn't pay as well as private-sector positions with the same level of responsibility, said Bob Wells, executive director of the Association of California School Administrators.

"You look at school districts and there is no reward for great performance," he said. "You get to keep your job."

These demands are even greater in large, urban school districts, which find it most difficult to attract superintendents. San Francisco's superintendent makes \$122,760, Oakland's earns \$180,000, and the Dallas school

board just raised its superintendent's salary to \$310,000 a year.

Johnston, West Contra Costa's schools chief, earns \$151,470, but her perks boost the total to more than \$200,000, including a car allowance, car maintenance and insurance, housing allowance, tax-deferred annuity and life insurance.

Although she says she's happy in West Contra Costa and has no plan to leave, Johnston gets calls from headhunters across the nation looking to fill superintendent spots in large, urban districts.

She works 80 to 100 hours a week, and the issues she confronts are more complex than in suburban districts, she said. In urban districts, it's harder to hire teachers and principals; students move around more from school to school, safety is a bigger issue, and she deals with five cities, plus unincorporated areas.

Moreover, superintendents can become a political target, she said.

"It takes a certain amount of courage and knowledge that people don't really mean it to be personal about you; it's more about the position," she said.

Leaders of more affluent, suburban districts have their own set of demands to deal with, namely, parents. Furstenthal, president of Acalanes' teachers union, said the public pressure on the Superintendent Randall Olson can be intense. Olson's salary is \$170,957, plus a \$3,000 transportation al-

lowance and \$6,000 tax-sheltered annuity. His is among the highest compensations in Contra Costa County, but district officials say it's average when compared to similar high school districts.

"I certainly think they deserve to be paid well," Furstenthal said. "They deserve to be competitive, but not hugely over other districts."

In Albany, a tight-knit enclave on the northwest edge of Berkeley, the search to replace retiring Superintendent Gary Mills generated so much interest that the school board appointed a citizens' committee to help vet candidates for the job. "Some (consultants) didn't recommend the committee," said Albany school board President David Farrell. "They said it'd scare away candidates."

But Albany isn't in the market for a leader who doesn't want to deal with its demanding and vocal parents, so the school board pressed ahead and hired a headhunter keen on community input.

Rudy Gatti, a retired Pleasanton and Santa Clara superintendent who now runs a one-man headhunting firm from his Danville home, is confident Albany will find a good match, though he worries the district won't be able to pay the price a good superintendent demands.

"The field is very narrow," Gatti said. "It's a high-turnover job, and a lot of people are retiring. They're tired of it."

Tired, he said, of answering to

the five bosses who make up the school board, tired of dealing with unions, tired of relying on state legislators to deliver the tools needed to get the test results that politicians and parents demand.

"A lot of superintendents are

finding, like me, when I retired, I said to my board, 'I'm going to go out and make some money now,'" Gatti said. "The first year, I doubled my income."

One person's wage does not

get, but a superintendent's salary is always controversial if it's too high and not pegged to comparable increases for other employees, said Mary Perry, executive director of EdSource, an education think tank in Palo Alto.

Gary Hack, president of the Antioch Education Association, said the superintendent's salary is not at issue; it's the message the school board sends when it treats administrators differently from teachers. "The message the board

has given is they have money for administrators and not for teachers," he said. "That's where the priorities are."

School boards are starting to realize that they have to pay more for the kind of leadership they want, said Wells, of the Association of California School Administrators.

"If you find the right leader, you might find teachers who otherwise wouldn't teach there say, 'I would follow her into war,'" he said.

grants or put the project on the city's yearly improvements budget.

"It would be nice to do the project," said Hanin, "but right now we have to do planning to see how much it's going to cost. I hope we can fund it."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com

Fairmount

FROM PAGE A1

With the undergrounding, the city has seen an opportunity to spruce up the area, with plans—provided the money can be found to install new, more attractive streetlights, benches, trash cans and trees as well as landscaping, and to make parking and street improvements.

In addition, the city is counting on BART to one day redevelop its parking lots near Richmond Street, as it's planning to do at its Del Norte station.

"It would be great if they transformed the parking lots adjacent to their BART station into a nice mixed use development," said Dennis Carrington, the city's planning manager, "and what we would like to see is commercial frontage along Fairmount Avenue. It would be good revenue for BART, good revenue for the city and would be an attractive urban place."

"There have been plans in the past and I think ultimately there will be a structure where the

parking lot is and the edge of it facing Fairmount will be developed as shops," added Smith.

Last year, the city hired architectural design firm Design, Community and Environment which after working with residents in workshops, came up with a master plan that would implement changes in three phases. The City Council approved a draft of the plan at its April 1 meeting. A final version will be sent back to the council for approval after it is seen by the Planning Commission.

After PG&E undergrounds the utility lines on Fairmount Avenue, classically designed "Hartford" Street lamps will be installed in the first phase of the master plan. The second and third phases would include adding trees and street furniture, and making the area safer by narrowing the street at certain points and reconfiguring crosswalks.

The renovations would include sidewalk "bulb-outs"—round sidewalk extensions onto the street—at Kearney Street and in front of the post office that would slow traffic and provide

room for trees and some of the new street furniture, including benches, tree grates and trash cans.

"The idea is for the city to put effort into upgrading the street furniture and hopefully the character of the sidewalks and planters to make it little more like Solano Avenue—an intentional shopping, strolling, pedestrian-friendly street," said Smith.

The other parts of phase two include:

■ A combination column post and street lamp—called a "gateway column"—at San Pablo on the north side of Fairmount Avenue.

■ A decrease of the width at the corner of Fairmount Avenue and Liberty Street to provide a more intimate sense of place, more space for a bus drop-off and allow the cross-walk to be perpendicular to Fairmount Avenue.

■ A bus shelter in front of Mechanics Bank at San Pablo and Fairmount avenues.

In phase three, the changes would include:

■ Putting bulb-outs in front

of the BART lot to accommodate diagonal parking, as AC Transit is going to eliminate the bus stop and bus lane in front of the station.

■ Landscaping and widening the median from the BART right-of-way to Liberty Street in two parts to decrease the width of the street and accentuate "the boulevard feeling of Fairmount."

■ Creating a crosswalk to BART where there are now three parking spaces near Liberty Street, as well as a bench, bike rack and street tree.

■ Placing diagonal parking in front of R&R Auto Service near Richmond Street.

■ Eliminating the right turn lane from Fairmount Avenue to Liberty Street and placing bulb-outs and diagonal parking, allowing the city to reconfigure the intersection to provide shorter crosswalks that are perpendicular to the streets.

■ Realigning and narrowing the Richmond Street and San Pablo Avenue intersections to improve pedestrian safety.

Minus the undergrounding, paid for by PG&E, the cost for all the improvements would be \$1.42 million. City Manager Scott Hanin said it's unknown how or where that money can be found, though the city could apply for

grants or put the project on the city's yearly improvements budget.

"It would be nice to do the project," said Hanin, "but right now we have to do planning to see how much it's going to cost. I hope we can fund it."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com

Paws

FROM PAGE A1

her that her grades went to practically straight A's," said Henri. "I went to every single game—every home game, every away game, but I noticed the jerseys didn't match."

She wanted to find a new way of raising money for the athletics department and found her answer when in November of 2000, she heard from a relative working at a Fremont high school how successfully their wall of honor was.

"This seems like a never-ending effort of raising money," thought Henri at the time. "Let's do something more meaningful that goes with the brand new high school, a brand new millennium."

A donor's \$100 buys a 5-inch by 5-inch paw, and \$300 buys one twice as big. Forty-five dollars of the smaller paws and \$100 of the larger paws are used for engraving.

ing and maintenance; the rest goes to the school. The money goes to a school department of the benefactor's choice.

Henri said the wall is popular with alumni, a number of whom have bought paws—among them former cheerleaders, and old-timers who attended Albany High School before it was even called that. The Albany Police and Fire departments have bought paws of their own.

"The wall is popular among

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box office: 1400 park street alameda, a limited number of premier tickets available for priority seating and after concert party with tuck and patti
photo: rebecca overman
design: michelle ellement
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Children

Hall of Health, a Health Exhibit Museum, 2230 Shattuck Ave., presents two free puppet shows at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 20. The Kids on the Block, the award-winning educational puppet troupe, includes puppets from diverse cultures and puppets with such conditions as cerebral palsy, blindness, arthritis, Down syndrome, leukemia, and spina bifida. The shows promote acceptance and understanding of physical, mental, medical and cultural differences. For more information, call 549-1564.

Teen Support Group meets twice a month Tuesday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free support group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. For more information, call PediatriCare at 531-7551.

Check out books from the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library. Spend quality time with your kids, meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is located at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. For more information, call 848-0237.

Berkeley Camera Club meet Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 - The Alameda. Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more information, call Don at 525-3565.

TOPS (Take Pounds Off Sensibly) Chapter CA 1294 is now meeting from 7:15-8:30 p.m. every Thursday evening at Mira Vista UCC Church, 7075 Cutting Blvd. TOPS is a non-profit organization assisting men and women in weight control. For more information call Betty Coates at 235-0490. This chapter has moved from Richmond.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment. To sign up for an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine Ph.D. has a background in Design and Education. For the past 10 years, she has assisted in publishing numerous resumes as part of her desktop publishing business. Call 848-6370.

Marion Rosen, founder of Rosen Method bodywork and movement, presents the Method through lecture, demonstration, and experimental practice. Rosen is joined in the presentation by Sam Webb, Senior Teacher of Rosen Method bodywork. Location: Feldenkreis Resources, 830 Bancroft Way. Admission: \$10. Reservations are strongly recommended. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Abby Paige, at 458-6606.

Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. To register, or for more information, call the Office of Emergency Services, 644-8736.

Berkeley Art Museum, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC-Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on Alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. For additional information call 642-0808.

Overeaters Anonymous meet Fridays at 1:30 PM at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues. In Room 2—the childcare room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively? For further information, call Katherine at 525-5231.

Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

Civil Rights activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington, P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA 94701.

"Work Buddies"; volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in

The Ann Martin Children's Center offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. For information: 524-0821.

Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley's public science museum and center for K-12 science and math education offers three residential summer science camps, including two camps held at actual University of California field research stations, and three Sierra backpacking summer science camps. Each camp emphasizes fun outdoor science explorations through hands-on, inquiry-based activities, as well as lots of traditional camp fun. Each camp has a unique theme, and is designed for a specific age group. Call 642-2275 or e-mail to: lhsinfo@uclink.berkeley.edu. To register, call 642-5134.

Theater Rata, "Julia Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 883-7023 for additional information.

Health Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT) support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. Call 524-3506 for additional information.

YWCA Health and Community Education; drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University

city YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370; \$8 - \$10.

Community

UC Berkeley campus opens its door to the public for Cal Day, its family open house, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 20. Visitors can hear lectures from esteemed professors, watch science demonstrations, listen to music—including tunes from the Cal Band, cheer on sports team and explore the ways of the natural world, from tiny bugs to the giant T-Rex dinosaur. Nearly everything is free. Limited parking will be available and shuttle buses will ferry visitors from the Berkeley BART. For more information, call 642-5215.

The Regional Parks Botanical Garden in Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley, holds its annual California native plant sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 20. A large selection of native plants will be available. All sale proceeds benefit the Botanical Garden and its programs. The garden is located on Wildcat Canyon Road at the foot of South Park Drive near the Brazil Building in Tilden Regional Park. Admission is free. For more information, call 841-8732.

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Civil Rights activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington, P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA 94701.

"Work Buddies"; volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in

early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

Psychic Healing clinic: 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays; free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief; 1-800-642-9355.

SMART project; the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs.

The Edible Schoolyard, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1335.

English-In-Action lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley. Call 847-9716.

Women's Daytime Drop-in Center in Berkeley; serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 466-5663.

Exhibits

The Fig Tree Gallery, 2599 Eighth St., No. 42, presents "April Art and Architectures in and at the Figtree," through May 5. A reception for the artists takes place at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 20. For more information, call 540-7843.

XY Group announces its upcoming Spring Art Show at the Nexus Gallery, 2707 Eighth St., from April 13 to May 4. Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays 12 a.m. to 5 p.m. Artist reception from 4-8 p.m. Saturday, April 13. For more information, call 549-0703 or 525-2754.

The Richmond Museum of History continues exhibits highlighting Richmond's agricultural beginnings, industrial achievements, and homefront contributions during WWII. Special exhibits and events are held throughout the year. The museum is located in the historic 1910 Carnegie Library in the Old Downtown area at the corner of 4th Street and Nevin Ave. Call 235-7387 for more information or to arrange tours.

The City of El Cerrito presents Open Clay Studio ongoing classes on Mondays, 7-9 p.m. Experience with clay is helpful, but not necessary. Opportunities will be provided for students to explore areas of clay work. Demonstrations and instruction will be provided on requests. Admission: \$7.50 residents, \$9.38 nonresidents. The location: Tassajara Pottery Center, 2575 Tassajara Boulevard. For more information, call Jude at 215-4371.

Alta Bates Medical Center presents work by members of the California Watercolor Association at its Community Art Gallery, 2450 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. The gallery is in the main corridor to the left of the information desk and main entrance. Call 204-4444 for additional information.

New Pieces Gallery is located on Solano Avenue. New Pieces is the only gallery which shows quilts and soft cloth sculptures and dolls exclusively. The gallery is open during store business hours: Monday, Wednesday

and Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Julia Morgan Center for the Arts hosts an informational and discussion session regarding dance opportunities in the Bay Area. The center opens its doors to the dance community and presents its plans for Dance Week 2002 and for future dance performances on the stage of Julia Morgan Theatre. The event is free. RSVP to Bridget Frederick at bridge@juliamorgan.org or by calling 845-8542, ext. 302. Visit the Web site at www.juliamorgan.org for more details.

Kensington Senior Activity Center meets from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The West Contra Costa Adult school and community volunteers present the Center's program of life-long learning. Attend any class or event. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Volunteers of all ages are needed. Call 526-9146 or 547-1969 for more information.

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and Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 25 meets on the third Tuesday of the month. The evening begins with a no

host dinner and fellowship at 7 p.m. followed by a short business meeting at 8 p.m. at 1931 Center St., the Veterans Memorial Building. Price: \$3. Women who have

had relatives in the US Military are invited to attend and join the auxiliary.

For more information, call R. DeRitt, Cmdr. D.A.V. Chapter 25, 916-372-6364.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public and the great variety of workshops held every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

Literary Events

Small Press Distribution Open House is set from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at 1341 7th St. The event is free and open to the public. Guest speakers will be Alfred Arteaga, author of House with the Blue Bed, Dodie Bellamy, author of a collection of Burroughs-inspired prose poems, Janice Mirikitani, author of Love Works, Jono Schneider, author of Walking and Talking and Giovanni Singleton, founding editor of Nectunes Review of the Literary Arts. For more information, call 524-1688, ext. 305.

The Reading Edge is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2121 Allston Way. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability that requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call the Reference Desk at 644-6648 to set up a training session.

Meetings

Improve your speaking skills by attending Berkeley Communicators' Toastmaster meetings, the first and third Wednesdays each month at 7:15 a.m. at Vault's Cafe, 3250 Adeline Street. Call 527-2337 for more information.

The Berkeley Camera Club meets Tuesdays evenings 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more information, call Don at 525-9146.

The YWCA offers free orientations every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. of its Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the center's resources and the variety of workshops it offers to the public. For additional information, call 848-6370.

Speak Smart Join Beijing Express Toastmasters, The Smart Club! Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Webster St. For additional information call 549-9671.

Toastmaster Meeting: Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice with us. Every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. Call 683-6708 for additional information.

Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) meets every Thursday evening at the First Baptist Church, Richmond, on Solano between Arlington. Call Betty Coates 235-0490 for more information.

Julia Morgan Center for the Arts hosts an informational and discussion session regarding dance opportunities in the Bay Area. The center opens its doors to the dance community and presents its plans for Dance Week 2002 and for future dance performances on the stage of Julia Morgan Theatre. The event is free. RSVP to Bridget Frederick at bridge@juliamorgan.org or by calling 845-8542, ext. 302. Visit the Web site at www.juliamorgan.org for more details.

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Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center

East Bay Neurology sponsors a monthly stroke support group. Advance reservations are required in advance.

For more information, call 525-9292.

Berkeley Toastermasters Club meet monthly, on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 12:10 to 1:30 p.m. at the State Health Building, Berkeley. Details: 849-7750.

Higher Alignment; 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships.

Feldenkreis Center, 3250 Adeline Street, Berkeley; (415) 461-5337; \$20.

Alta Bates Support Groups - Alta Bates Support Group meets the second Tuesday of every month; 1 - 2:30 p.m.; 204-4503. Call for additional special events.

Overeaters Anonymous, a 12 step program providing free aid for those

eating problems, meets in Berkeley every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (meeters at 8 a.m.) at St. John's Church, 901 Nevins (take Elevator to the third floor). For further information, call 273-9292.

TOPS; 9:30 a.m., Mondays; Take Pounds Off Sensibly, Albany Center meets at 8:30 Stannage St. at M23-2349 or Karen, 525-6858.

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East Bay Neurology sponsors a monthly stroke support group. Advance reservations are required in advance.

For more information, call 525-9292.

Music

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra

present "Mostly Mozart," 8 p.m. Saturday, April 13, and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 14. The event takes place at First Congregational Church (Dr. Duran) Berkeley. Guest artist: Yvonne Kenny. In celebration of its 700th concert performance, the Orchestra invites all audience members to a reception immediately following each concert.

The program also includes Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante & Haydn's Symphony No. 85 in B Major, "La Reine." For more information, call 437-9881.

The Berkeley Contemporary Chamber Players, under the direction of David Milnes will perform a concert celebrating the career of composer Oly (T) son at 8 p.m. Monday, April 15, at Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley. The concert features William Brown, tenor; Jennifer Joseff, clarinet. Admission: \$10 and \$6. Tickets can be obtained by calling 642-9988; for information, 642-4864.

The Distaff Singers, an established East Bay Women's chorus, is seeking new members. No auditions required just a love of singing. Classical, sacred, Broadway. Rehearsals

every

Wednesday

at 7:30 p.m.

calendar

PAGE A8

nights 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Call 611-5624, or L.J. 482-1677. *Diablos*, featuring Donald on piano, vocals, harmonica, on *Acoustic Bass*, Michael on *Drums*, and Larry *Giustino* on *Shirtless Gibson L4*, perform every Friday night from 10 to 11 p.m. at *Place 1801*, University at Berkeley. All ages welcome.

1317 San Pablo Ave. — Grateful Dead DJ night with *Dig-Dive* and *Jazz Z.D.* on Thursday from 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets \$4. Call 594-1400 for additional information.

11th Folk Dancing: 8 p.m. — 11 p.m. no partner necessary for line dances taught from *Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and Lands* each Friday from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary — all ages welcome. Albany, 901 Kains Ave.; \$4; call 525-2525.

1205 Berkeley Botanical Garden, Centennial Drive, Strawberry Hill, offers a free sick plant clinic first Saturday of every month 9 a.m. to noon. Dr. Raabe will diagnose, for more information, call 525-2755.

to feed and care for orphaned birds: house sparrows, starlings pigeons are introduced species not afforded care by rehabilitation groups. You can make an important contribution in returning these birds to the wild life they deserve to free training and some supplemental Myrna 531-3042 or Leila 5-8911.

15 Point at the YWCA, 2600 Dwight Way, offers "Scribble Time," a unique that helps participants understand themselves and to find themselves. The group meets on Tuesdays by appointment and is free to YWCA members. Call 548-6370 for additional information; leave a message for Anne 202-1021.

16 Sport Comprehensive Cancer Center, 2001 Dwight Way, offers eight consecutive Wednesday discussion groups entitled "I Can Cope," from 7:30 p.m. April 10 through April 23. The sessions are free for cancer and their family and friends. For more information or to make a reservation, call 524-4503.

17 Bay Regional Park Botanical Garden, Muilen Park, presents regular seven days a week. Week days 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Specie tours by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a date of upcoming classes call 841-8732.

18 Comprehensive Cancer Center, 2001 Dwight Way, offers eight consecutive Wednesday discussion groups entitled "I Can Cope," from 7:30 p.m. April 10 through April 23. The sessions are free for cancer and their family and friends. For more information or to make a reservation, call 524-4503.

19 Alta Bates Medical Center, 3001 Dwight Way, offers support group classes for stroke survivors and their families and friends on the first Tuesday of the month, from 4-5 p.m. at the Herrick Campus of Alta Bates Medical Center. There is no admission charge and advance registration is not necessary. Call 204-4503 for additional information.

20 The Comprehensive Cancer Center and Breast Center, Alta Bates Medical Center, 3001 Dwight Way, offers a support group for friends and families coping with cancer. The support group is offered on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. This is a free service. Call 204-1811 for additional information.

21 The Lupus Foundation of Northern California is still accepting applications for its Youth Pilot Support Program currently underway at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. The group meets monthly and is open to teens suffering from lupus and other rheumatic diseases. For more information, call (408) 954-8600 or visit www.balf.org.

22 The City of Berkeley Portable Meals program desperately needs drivers to deliver 15 meals once a week to homebound seniors. Call 644-8590.

23 The North Berkeley Senior Center is also seeking volunteers to work in its gift shop, coffee bar and dining area three to four hours, one day a week. Call 644-6107.

24 Lecture/Workshop

25 The Berkeley Historical Society, 1931 Center St. continues its five lecture series connected with the exhibit "From the Attic: How to Preserve and Share our Past," with Drew Johnson. Johnson, Oakland Museum photo curator, will speak on "Preserving Photographs" at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 14. Subsequent lectures are on preserving paper, creating oral histories, and the history of Sather Tower, the Campanile. Donations are welcome. Visit the Web page at www.berkeley.ca.us/histsoc/ or call 524-1250.

26 The Medical Center presents a support group for family, friends and older adults from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the third Wednesday of month. The session takes place in the Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way, third floor, room 3369B (elevator B). The group will focus on needs of older adults with serious medical problems, psychiatric illness, such as depression, dementia and substance abuse. For more information or interested in a private session, call 802-1725.

27 A series of recent tragedies both here and across the nation can have reactions that can affect us physically, in our

28 Crisis Support Services offers through its 24-hour crisis line, counseling, education and community programs. Call 849-4400 for more information.

29 For Cancer class meets Wednesdays from 11:30 to 12:45

p.m. at the Alta Bates Comprehensive Cancer Center. The classes are open to both current patients and long-term survivors. Call Janet, 891-9560, for directions and more information.

30 Restorative Yoga class meets on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in central Berkeley. Cost: \$10 per class. Easy, luxurious stretches and mindful breathing help to ease tension and discomfort and open the body to relaxation and well-being. Call Janet, 891-9560, for directions and more information.

31 Adult Survivors of Incest, a local support group in the east bay is being formed. The group will gather for hearing discussions and also various activities, including hiking, dancing, classic film watching, traveling, or any fun activity. Interested participants, call Alta Preece at 825-1698. Feel free to leave a message.

32 The pain and grief associated with the death of a loved one can often feel overwhelming — especially during the holidays. Many people suffer isolation. The grief counseling project is here to help. No one is turned away for lack of money. Call 889-1104.

33 "The Grief Care Community" offers 8-week bereavement support groups as well as art therapy grief groups, and individual support. Call 540-0830 for additional information.

34 The local self-help group for Berkeley National Multiple Sclerosis Society meets periodically. Call Toni at 653-4534 for additional information.

35 Alta Bates Medical Center Herrick Campus offers a guided relaxation and visualization for people with cancer every Thursday, 5-6 p.m. at its Comprehensive Cancer Center, first floor Conference Room, 2001 Dwight Way. The Center offers this solution with an innovative approach to reducing stress and anxiety and creating positive, life-affirming images. Call 204-1811 for additional information. Call 204-1811 for additional information.

36 Alta Bates Medical Center, offers a Grief Education Class every third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to noon at ABMC Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. The class covers common and personal grief reactions. Fee: \$10. No one refused due to inability to pay. For further information, contact 841-2930.

37 Alta Bates Medical Center, 3001 Dwight Way, offers support group classes for stroke survivors and their families and friends on the first Tuesday of the month, from 4-5 p.m. at the Herrick Campus of Alta Bates Medical Center. There is no admission charge and advance registration is not necessary. Call 204-4503 for additional information.

38 The Comprehensive Cancer Center and Breast Center, Alta Bates Medical Center, 3001 Dwight Way, offers a support group for friends and families coping with cancer. The support group is offered on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. This is a free service. Call 204-1811 for additional information.

39 The Lupus Foundation of Northern California is still accepting applications for its Youth Pilot Support Program currently underway at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. The group meets monthly and is open to teens suffering from lupus and other rheumatic diseases. For more information, call (408) 954-8600 or visit www.balf.org.

40 The City of Berkeley Portable Meals program desperately needs drivers to deliver 15 meals once a week to homebound seniors. Call 644-8590.

41 The North Berkeley Senior Center is also seeking volunteers to work in its gift shop, coffee bar and dining area three to four hours, one day a week. Call 644-6107.

42 Lecture/Workshop

43 The Berkeley Historical Society, 1931 Center St. continues its five lecture series connected with the exhibit "From the Attic: How to Preserve and Share our Past," with Drew Johnson. Johnson, Oakland Museum photo curator, will speak on "Preserving Photographs" at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 14. Subsequent lectures are on preserving paper, creating oral histories, and the history of Sather Tower, the Campanile. Donations are welcome. Visit the Web page at www.berkeley.ca.us/histsoc/ or call 524-1250.

44 Crisis Support Services offers through its 24-hour crisis line, counseling, education and community programs. Call 849-4400 for more information.

45 For Cancer class meets Wednesdays from 11:30 to 12:45

848-0181 for more information. UC Botanical Garden offers a free plant clinic from 9 a.m. to noon, first Saturday of every month at Strawberry Canyon, 200 Centennial Drive. For more information, call 643-2755.

46 Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center expanded its collection of contemporary fiction, nonfiction and children's books. Meet the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is open to the public. Hours: 11 and to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Fridays. For more information, call 848-0237.

47 Tat Chai Chuan and Kung-kung classes take place at Berkeley Unitarian Church at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and 9 a.m. Saturday mornings at Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St. People of all ages and physical conditions are welcome to practice. Donation: \$65. To sign up call 265-4995.

48 The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public as well as the different things that the center has to offer such as a great variety of workshops. They are held every Tuesday, at 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 540-0830 for additional information.

49 Learn Computer Applications for the "working" world using Windows '95 and '98 and Microsoft Office 2000 software, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint. Publisher. Class offered: Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Location: Contra Costa County Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo Ave., Suite No. 111, San Pablo. For information call 237-0840 or visit the web site at www.cco.k12.ca.us/.

50 "What is Meditation?" is a peaceful and practical introduction to the basics of meditation. The free seminar takes place at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2352 Shattuck Ave. Pragito Dove is the facilitator. Call 644-0861 for additional information. Emotions Anonymous: Twelve-Step meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. Call 236-8226 for Berkeley location.

Theater, Dance & Film

51 The Berkeley Repertory Theater, 2025 Addison St., presents "Copenhagen," playwright and director Michael Frayn from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 17. Frayn will discuss the actual events that inspired his play and intrigued and baffled historians for more than 50 years. The best-reviewed play of the 2000 season, Copenhagen won Tony's for Best Play and Best Director. This program is cosponsored by The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute and Berkeley Repertory Theater. Tickets: \$5 for members, \$8 for non-members. Reservation deadline is April 15. For more information, call 415-597-6712. To make reservations call 415-597-6705 or 6706.

52 "In Search of My Clitoris," a humorous one-woman show, is 8 p.m. Sunday, April 14, at Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave. Sia Amma uses her comedic wit to bring light to a tasteless subject: the tribal custom of cutting a girl's clitoris as part of her passage into womanhood. Amma has performed her original 90-minute show throughout the United States since 1999 and is headed to Broadway April 17-19. Tickets: \$15 adults; \$13 for children. Call 925-798-1300 for tickets. For more information or visit the Web site at www.juliamorgan.org.

53 The Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists Social Justice Committee presents the film "Mike Ruppert on Truth and Lies of 9/11" at 6 p.m. Sunday, April 14, at Fellowship Hall, 1924 Cedar (at Bonita). All welcome, wheelchair accessible, refreshments. For more information, call Cynthia at 528-5403.

54 The Lupus Foundation of Northern California is still accepting applications for its Youth Pilot Support Program currently underway at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. The group meets monthly and is open to teens suffering from lupus and other rheumatic diseases. For more information, call (408) 954-8600 or visit www.balf.org.

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56 The North Berkeley Senior Center is also seeking volunteers to work in its gift shop, coffee bar and dining area three to four hours, one day a week. Call 644-6107.

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58 The Berkeley Historical Society, 1931 Center St. continues its five lecture series connected with the exhibit "From the Attic: How to Preserve and Share our Past," with Drew Johnson. Johnson, Oakland Museum photo curator, will speak on "Preserving Photographs" at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 14. Subsequent lectures are on preserving paper, creating oral histories, and the history of Sather Tower, the Campanile. Donations are welcome. Visit the Web page at www.berkeley.ca.us/histsoc/ or call 524-1250.

59 Crisis Support Services offers through its 24-hour crisis line, counseling, education and community programs. Call 849-4400 for more information.

60 For Cancer class meets Wednesdays from 11:30 to 12:45

61 Actors Ensemble of Berkeley present "Long Day's Journey into Night," at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturdays, April 12 through May 11 at Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Ave. There will also be a 8 p.m. Thursday, May 9, performance. "Journey" is the third production of Actors Ensemble's 45th season, which will conclude with Wendy Wasserstein's "The Heidi Chronicles," in July and August. For more information about the group, visit www.actorsensembleberkeley.com.

62 The Albany YMCA offers after school classes for elementary and middle school age children. The YMCA offers sports and dance programs, gymnasium and Hip Hop and enrichment programs such as cooking, sewing and art. Financial assistance always available. For more information, call 525-1130.

63 Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., offers a family-friendly program of classes, workshops and activities taught by professional teaching artists, all aimed at bringing arts participation into people's everyday lives. Classes take place at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts. For more information, including complete class descriptions, fees, and instructor bios, see www.juliamorgan.org or call 845-8542 for a brochure.

64 The Berkeley Adult School (BAS) offers Adult Basic Education classes, High School Diploma Requirement classes, General Educational Development Preparation classes which can be utilized to earn a GED certificate, and Preparation for US Citizenship classes. The classes are free. BAS also offers, for an affordable fee, a variety of vocational classes and computer classes, ranging from introduction to Computers to Advanced Computer Applications. Call 644-6130 for additional information.

65 The South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St., offers a variety of classes. For additional information and class scheduling, call 883-5222.

66 Interview Clinics sponsored by Turning Point Center at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, are held on Monday mornings from 9-11 by appointment. 30-minute sessions are \$15 for YWCA members and \$20 for non-members. Call the Center at 848-6370 and leave a message to reserve an appointment time. Be sure to leave a name and telephone number.

Classes

67 Vista Community College offers classes in Adventure Travel, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays through May 23. The course covers various kinds of adventure travel: hard adventure, soft adventure, and cultural/spiritual adventure. The curriculum includes adventure travel specials such as biking mountaineering, overland trips, safaris, rafting, hiking, small boat and expedition-style cruising, and more.

For more information, call 981-2931.

68 Albany Adult School offers classes in Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Italian and Spanish this quarter. Most classes meet in the evening once a week for 10 weeks. A few are offered in the afternoon as well. Meet at 601 San Gabriel Ave. in Albany, or across the street at the Albany Middle School.

Average cost is \$48 plus books. Call the Adult School at 559-6580 for more information.

69 Folkdance classes, Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 53 Arlington Ave. (across from the Kensington Library). Simple and clear lessons for people of all levels. Emphasis is good music and fun. Cost: \$30 for 6-week session (pro-rated fees apply), \$8 for drop in session. For more information, call Mel Hart, at 848-5289 before 9 p.m.

70 Vista Community College, 2020 Military St., offers its new Sunrise College this spring with classes in accounting, e-commerce, business, Java programming, English, ESL, statistics and Spanish for business professionals.

Classes start at 7 a.m. and end at 9 a.m. Call 981-2800 for more information.

71 Assets Senior Employment offers a job training program for income-eligible people 55 and older living in Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany. Learn when you learn. Interested in working with children? You can receive college credit in Early Childhood Development while being paid. Class starts soon. Call 238-3554 for more information.

Call 238-3554 for more information.

72 Tat Chai Chuan and **Kung-kung** classes take place at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts. For more information, including complete class descriptions, fees, and instructor bios, see www.juliamorgan.org or call 845-8542 for a brochure.

73 The Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., presents an introductory class for the home fruit grower. Proper pruning increases the flavor and size of fruit, as well as preserves the health and longevity of the tree. There will also be a demonstration of various pruning tools. The class is taught by Greg Peck, owner of an organic landscape and garden design business in the East Bay. Cost is \$10 for non-members, \$7.50 for members. Call 548-2220 to reserve a space.

74 The van der Zanden Studio, 1025 Carleton, No. 9, offers sculpture classes. All levels. Call 843-9445 for additional information.

75 A CopWatch class takes place every Monday night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 2222 Blake St. near Shattuck. Know your rights. The classes are free. Call 548-0425 for additional information.

76 Berkeley Community Media (BCM), Channel 25, offers affordable classes in video production and editing to Berkeley residents. Free orientations

designed to introduce BCM to the public are held on Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 2229 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. For more information call 848-2288 and ask for Patrick, John or Sage.

77 Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., offers many dances classes ranging from Afro-Cuban to Kalaripayattu Dances of India, to West Coast Swing, Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing. The Ashkenaz is a nonprofit music and dance community center. Call 525-5054 for additional information.

78 Life Stories/Collage and Ceramics classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Teachers are Diana Bohm and Judith Carroll. Call 845-6830 for additional information.

79 Contemporary Women's Issues class is forming at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. Free class offered by the Berkeley Adult School, taught by Judith Carroll, MFCC. Friday mornings 10 a.m. to noon. Open to all women 55 or older. Call 844-6107 for additional information.

80 Dance and Fitness Classes open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, belly-dance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theatre dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees \$8-10. Information: 848-6370.

81 Let's Swing and Jitterbug: 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate; four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley; Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes.

Volunteers

82 Berkeley Neighborhood Computers, a non-profit community organization, seeks volunteers to recycle, rebuild, and redistribute computer technology for families and schools. Volunteers are needed to be administrative coordinators, computer pick up and create efficient and effective systems for recording and use of spaced, answer phone calls, log calls, route information, and other assistance. Call Mike at 845-1226 for more information.

83 Volunteers are needed to assemble and wrap beautiful sacred Tibetan books and prepare sacred texts for prayer wheels. Help fund-raise to distribute these treasures to Tibetans in exile. Call 800-338-4238 for more information and location.

84 Crisis Support Services of Alameda County needs volunteers to maintain its 24-hour crisis line. Make the difference between hope and despair for a person in need. No prior experience required, excellent training provided. Do something to help your community. Call 848-1515 for more information.

85 Tibetan Altar Project seeks volunteers to help preserve the ancient wisdom of Tibet. Assemble and wrap beautiful sacred Tibetan books. Prepare sacred texts for prayer wheels. Help fund-raise to distribute these treasures to Tibetans in exile. For location and more information, call 800-338-4238.

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INVITATION TO BID

City of Berkeley ("City"), will receive sealed Bids at City of Berkeley, Purchasing Manager's Office, located at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Center, 2180 Milvia Street, Third Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704, Telephone (510) 981-7320 until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7, 2002 for the following public work.

Specification No F-8930-02
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING PHASE 2
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ABATEMENT
& BUILDING DEMOLITION

The proposed work includes the abatement of hazardous materials and the demolition of the buildings located at 2121 and 2171 McKinley Avenue (Fire Department Administration building and Hall of Justice building, respectively) in the City of Berkeley. The Hall of Justice building is a three-story reinforced concrete building with a basement and large transformer vault. The Fire Department building is a two-story building with CMU walls. In addition, a one story, CMU storage building is to be partially demolished.

City will conduct **MANDATORY** Pre-bid Conferences and Site Visits at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 17, 2002, and 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 30, 2002. Contractors intending to submit a bid for the work **MUST** attend one of the two scheduled conferences and site visits. Bids received from Contractors who have not been represented at one of the meetings shall be deemed non-responsive and returned unopened.

Bidders may obtain Contract Documents from the Office of Capital Projects, 1947 Center Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA, 94704, after April 11, 2002. City will charge \$40.00 for each set of Contract Documents, and will accept checks or money orders payable to City as payment for them. Bidders must make their own arrangements to ship the Contract Documents, and pay for any shipping costs. City, in its discretion, may refund the charge if the Contract Documents are timely returned in good, usable condition. The charge shall be **NON-REFUNDABLE** after the time for receipt of Bids. If any check is returned without payment for any reason, City will impose a \$10.00 returned check fee. For information pertaining to the Contract Documents, please contact Hamid Kondazi, Project Manager, at 510-981-6335.

11 CERRITO PLAZA
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12 April is Strawberry Month Tastings and recipes. Sweet and delicious Strawberries are now in season.

13 CERRITO PLAZA LIVE MUSIC & CRAFTS! SAN PABLO & FAIRMONT 528-7992



STEVE MASLANKA/STAFF

EL CERRITO'S Tony and Janice Astorgano stand with the classic car that brought them 15 minutes of fame. The couple won \$3,000 from 'America's Funniest Home Videos.'



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE LOCAL organizing committee for this year's Relay for Life includes Jackie Hammond, Cynthia Shane-Smith of the American Cancer Society, Marsha Williamson, Allan Maris, Janice Jordan and Joann Steck-Bayat.

Relay

FROM PAGE A1

Joann Steck-Bayat, a cancer survivor and one of the residents organizing the event.

"Many of us are very grateful for the research money that's in there," said Steck-Bayat, adding that an experimental treatment that helped her beat breast cancer in 1992 may have been directly funded by money raised through the American Cancer Society.

Residents who sign up for the relay will come together in teams of eight to 15 people and camp out in tents at the track of El Cerrito High School for 24 hours. One person from each team will be on the track running, walking or wheeling for the entire event.

To sign up, residents must raise \$100 individually, as well as \$100 for the entire team. Organizers hope that more than \$20,000 will be raised by the end of the event.

The event has been an annual fund raiser for the American Cancer Society since 1985 and raises millions of dollars every year for cancer research. About 90 percent of the money raised goes to prevention, research, detection and treatment, and patient services and fundraising.

Janice Jordan, an Albany resident who has survived soft-tissue cancer twice — once when she was a teen-ager and again 30 years later — was one of a handful of people who helped to organize the event for its inaugural in 2000. She said the money raised has helped create treatments that saved her life and made battling cancer less debilitating.

"The reason I got interested in it is because I had cancer and I just felt really strongly about giving back because I had a pretty awful experience," said Jordan, "and friends and family really rallied around me and even though I was getting treatment I was getting lot of support."

This year, a group of cancer survivors from El Cerrito, Albany, and Berkeley is planning the event. It includes Steck-Bayat, Jordan, and Berkeley residents Jackie Hammond, Marsha Williamson and Jeff Sinsheimer.

The event will kick off with a

survivor's lap. At 10:15 a.m., on May 18, hundreds of cancer survivors and those fighting it will take a walk around the track to honor those who have been touched by cancer and who are coming together to fight it.

Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia and Albany City Councilman Allan Maris will be among the people speaking at the start of the event.

At 8:26 p.m., as the sun is setting on May 18, everyone will participate in a circle of hope. People make donations toward individual luminaries to ring the track in the names of loved ones who have lost their lives or are dealing with cancer. The closing ceremony is at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 19.

Students from UC Berkeley and Boy Scouts from Berkeley and El Cerrito will help set up and tear down the event, along with dozens of community members and local businesses who are donating food and providing entertainment to keep the relay moving through the night.

Jordan said this year the event will have an increase in the number of families and teen-agers participating. "This is only the third year this is happening and it kind of grows by word of mouth," added Steck-Bayat. "People who participated last year are participating this year and bringing more people so there's an increase in numbers. Last year it raised \$20 thousand and hopefully this year it will raise a lot more."

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Couple's video funny — if not 'Funny'

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Tony and Jackie Astorgano's video of the result of a gas station mishap just missed winning the \$10,000 grand prize on the "America's Funniest Home Videos" TV show — losing to a tape of a guy who gets angry over a football game — but it did give them, as Tony Astorgano put it, about a minute's worth of fame.

The Astorganos' tape shows Jackie coming home in their 1966 red Mustang — with the hose from a gas-station pump sticking out of the car. When Tony tells Jackie about it, she smiles and says, "I filled it up, though."

Not quite Monty Python material, maybe, but enough to earn the two antiques collectors \$3,000, a free trip to Los Angeles, \$300 in spending money and a limousine ride to the studio where "Funniest Home Videos" is shot.

About 15 seconds of their video was seen three different times on the program March 8 and the As-

torganos themselves are seen for a total of less than 10 seconds.

"We didn't talk at all, but they showed me with Jackie," said Tony. "They said, 'Be really energetic and be surprised.' It was about a minute's worth of fame."

The ABC show, which began in 1990, airs snippets of home videotapes featuring cute or bratty kids, cute or pesky pets, collapsing chairs, falling trousers and more.

The Astorganos have been watching the show since it started and it's still one of their favorites, though they're not crazy about the videos where people get hurt — whether it's by falling down, falling off a bike or getting hit with a baseball bat.

"I don't think it's funny, but people think it's funny even if they fall down and even if they hurt themselves," Tony Astorgano said.

Their nonviolent video happened when Tony, who had been taping some deer in the neighborhood, turned the camera on

Jackie, the Mustang and a gas-station hose.

They sent the tape to in 1998. It wasn't until 2002 that they were shown \$10,000 grand

Each week, "Funny Videos" chooses three as finalists to go for prize. The audience then votes for the favorite.

The Astorganos miffed them to a game so angry about the outcome of the football game that he was at himself in frustration, still a glimmer of life in time TV fastlane.

"They take care of Tony of his time at the studio. They bring him there and drinks and nice conference room can sit down and relax."

"It wasn't bad even place," he said. "I would do it again."

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Queen Set

Perfect Sleep
\$4899
Queen Set

NO FLIP
Beautyrest
\$869
Queen Set

BackSupporter
\$1279
Queen Set

Chattam & Wells
Paloma
\$2399
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Perfect Sleep
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Real Estate & Home

rising supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclarion, The Piedmonter

Friday, April 12, 2002

Section B

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B7]

Open Home Guide See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B14]



THE COLONIAL HOME AT 614 ALVARADO ROAD in Berkeley was re-built after the Oakland hills fire using plans from 1922.

Something old, something new

Colonial home in the Claremont Hills pairs gracious 1922 plans with 1993 technology

BY LINNEA SMITH JESSUP
CORRESPONDENT

For many, symmetry is an important element in their lives, their interests and their home. Two ducks flying toward the sunset. An arrangement of art prints, lined up in perfect rows. Light sconces balanced on either ends of a room.

The Colonial home at 614 Alvarado Road in Berkeley's Claremont area is a great example of symmetry, with its trio of gables in the front, dark blue shutters and white shingle siding and a steep brick stairway leading from the street to the central front entry edged by a pair of trellises.

The site held a Colonial home built in 1922 and designed by Warren Charles Perry. It was destroyed in the Oakland Hills firestorm in 1991. The new owners of the home, however, were able to use the original plans to recreate the classic home, with features from the '90s such as better lighting, insulation and even a new two-car garage.

Today the home stands with grandeur on a site looking across the Bay and Golden Gate bridges. A terraced back yard with a variety of shrubs and trees provides both a peaceful setting as well as a natural view from many of the three-story home's windows.

The marble floor entry leads to a pair of bedrooms with pale blue carpeting and windows facing Alvarado Road, plus a staircase with white and wood railings that rises to the second floor,

See COLONIAL, Page B2

which is the main living area of the approximately 3,681-square-foot traditional home. Here hardwood floors have contrasting wood inlay designs.

To the south is the living room with large paned windows and built-in bookcases at both ends. The fireplace has a white marble surround.

Banner wallpaper edges the tops of the cream-and-gold faux-finished walls. Recessed lighting enhances the gracious, old-fashioned appeal. The adjoining room, also with wide windows on both ends but with brighter walls, could be a great office or studio, with access to a large wood deck.

At the other side of the stairs is the dining room, dignified yet bold with wide blue and white stripes, a Colonial style brass

85 GRAVATT DRIVE,
OAKLAND; OPEN SUNDAY 2
TO 4:30

THIS MODERN FOUR-BEDROOM, FOUR-AND-ONE-HALF BATH MEDITERRANEAN boasts a stellar four-bridge view. The home's open kitchen and living-family room spaces are very flexible for entertaining. The location at the end of a cul-de-sac adds to the home's privacy. Offered at \$2,250,000. For more information, call Debra Dryden at 510-339-0400.

A winning pair from The GRUBB Co. Mediterranean with a view



Live in a work of art



6013 SKYLINE BOULEVARD,
OAKLAND; OPEN SUNDAY 2
TO 4:30

WHEN AWARD-WINNING DESIGNER DAVID STARK WILSON built this stunning contemporary he sited it for maximum privacy and sweeping bay views. Exceptional architecture and one-of-a-kind finishes highlight the home. The home's color palette, evidenced here is truly magical. The home is offered at \$2,300,000. For more information, call Erika Celeste at 510-339-0400.

WELLS & BENNETT 531-7000 REALTORS

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00-4:30



12-264 SANTA ROSA AVENUE \$796,000
Apex: One unit 3BD/2BA & One unit 2BD/1BA. New kitchen w/granite counters, new appliances, new plumbing, electrical, fountain, furnaces, water heater, washer/dryer each unit. Vacant, great for owner-occupier or rental of two families.

Kevin P. Kennedy 531-7000x204



1784 CASTERLINE RD. \$599,000
1ST OPEN! Oakmore traditional! 4BD/2BA, gracious formal living and dining rooms. Gleaming hardwood floors, sunny level yard & patio, partial bay view, 2-car garage, wonderful neighborhood.

Wendy Callaghan 531-7000x237



3779 PARK BLVD WAY \$525,000
Serene three bedroom, two bath with office and family room. Shoji screens, fireplace, built-ins, kitchen with cooking island, yard. Glenview ambiance and Crocker Highlands schools.

Stan Hammond 531-7000x246



3829 RANDOLPH \$479,000
Charming Glenview craftsman with box beams, fireplace, refinished hardwood floors, remodeled bath. Wedgewood stove in kitchen. 2BD plus sunporch. Level yard.

Nell Davis 531-7000x263



372 HOPKINS STREET \$447,000
Location! Easy walk to Monterey Market, Indian St., shops, BART. Inviting two bedrooms, two Spanish style bungalows with fashionable Euro style interior. Pleasant yard and deck. Detached garage with storage.

John Hammond 531-7000x246



2801 BRIDSALL \$320,000
2nd Open! Charming Brown Shingle. Sunny and updated. Three bedrooms, two baths. Fenced level yard.

Nancy Novick 531-7000x254



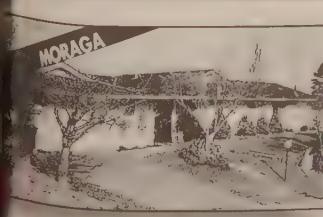
3100 BRIDSALL \$299,000
Make this delightful Maxwell Park charmer your own! Two bedrooms, one bathroom, spacious kitchen with nook, FDR, marvelous living room w/fireplace. Attached garage & wonderful private backyard.

Carol Robbiano 531-7000x292



2419 55TH AVENUE \$259,000
Near Mills College - sunny remodeled 2BD w/charm, living rm w/fireplace & built-ins, large eat-in kitchen w/tile counter, double pane windows, new roof, bsm, garage + two driveways!

Kate Phillips 531-7000x228 or 436-4100



5+BD/3+BA IN A GREAT LOCATION \$775,000
See the potential of this marvelous one-level home with special garden entry. Walk to Campolindo High. Enjoy easy freeway access & great shops & restaurants of Moraga and Lafayette.

Carol Robbiano
925-746-6415

■ 4 UNITS + COMMERCIAL STORE FRONT.....\$725,000
Four 1BD units over two storefronts. Grocery store unit has 3 yr. lease. GI approx. \$62K. High traffic count. Rents below market rate.
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531-7000x235 or 654-6461

■ BAY VIEW LOT MONTCLAIR.....\$185,000
Downslope lot in area of Millon \$ plus new construction. Soils, survey reports included.
David Hennigan
531-7000x229 or 601-9540

■ 3 CONTIGUOUS LOTS IN MONTCLAIR.....\$115-120K
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Colonial

FROM PAGE B1

chandelier and twin wall sconces. A curved display closet for fine china and other collectibles is balanced by a curved doorway which leads to the kitchen, also decorated in blue and white. It has place wood cabinets and a large window over the sink with a wide counter and an island with the range. An informal eating area to the side has access to the back yard. The kitchen also flows to the family room, at the north end of the home, and it, too, has hardwood floors and views of the bay.

Modern conveniences include recessed lighting, Corian counter tops and modern appliances, but they don't detract from the classic Colonial setting which the current owners have accented with many Oriental-style rugs and traditional furniture throughout the home.

The backyard has several terraces, stone stairs and trellises, providing a restful setting and a backdrop for the patio which has room for tables, BBQ and other entertainment elements. A stairway leads down to the new two-car garage and its large curving driveway leading up from Alvarado; there's also an interior stairway off the kitchen which leads to this modern addition. The one-garage, as originally built and then reconstructed is right off the street on the lowest level of the lot.

The third floor is easily the master retreat, with the master bedroom on the south end of the home, with wood floor and a fireplace. A high ceiling and lots of recessed lighting make it an airy and spacious room. It has windows front and back and its own small deck.

Occupants walk through the large closet to the large bath with glass shower, jetted tub and double sinks. At the opposite end of this level is a bedroom or study with wood paneling and wainscot, windows on two sides and fireplace. It is painted gray-blue with matching ceiling and has built-in staircases, storage and arched doors. A large skylight and wall sconces help illuminate the room.

Gracious but not pretentious, the home has a quiet and dignified air about it. Many of the rooms provide excellent views of the bay, making it a house of many spots for socializing as well as solitude.



PHOTOS BY KEN PERKINS/STAFF



VITAL STATISTICS

What: A modern-day Colonial three-story home built from 1922 architectural plans.

Size: Approx. 3,601 square feet on a 17,200-square-foot lot.

Bedrooms: Four

Bathrooms: Three

Features: Large, light rooms with unobstructed San Francisco Bay views and a classic Colonial ambience including arched doorways in some areas, symmetrical layout and design of rooms, several with built-in bookcases or cabinets and crown molding. Four fireplaces. Two-car garage with interior access to the kitchen. A single-car garage at street level.

Price: \$1495,000

Agent: Leslie Easterday, Pacific Union, 510-339-6460, ext. 1363.

A BRASS CHANDELIER and wall sconces and arched doors provide traditional Colonial elegance to the dining room, above. Left: The kitchen reflects the most modern touches in this classic home with Corian countertops, a wide window sill and long counters plus an informal eating area and access to the back yard.

Please recycle.

NEW LISTING!
Open Sunday, April 14, 2-4:30pm



888 Mountain Blvd., Oakland

Distinctive traditional with wonderful architectural details; hardwood floors with inlay, box beam ceiling in living room, decks and more. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, spacious office, family room opens to level garden & patio. Close to Montclair Village.



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NOLL DAVIS

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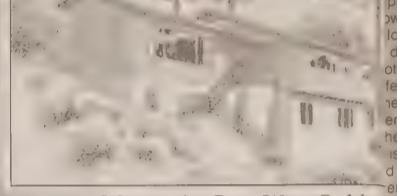
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These are the times that try buyer's (and seller's) souls

umber 394 in a series of true
differences in real estate
the housing market we work on
right now, unexpectedly so.
tall things seemed to slow
a bit, and agents and buyers
hopeful that some sanity in
would reign. It would be nice,
ance, if our market allowed
sufficient time to consider
what they want to buy.
ld be even better if the com-
for houses was not so great.
re experiencing an even
omewhat brisk market with
tenders for many of the
houses. It is frequently
that buyers make offers on
erent houses before suc-
ing in buying one.

This is a very trying situation for
ers and their agents. It takes a
ime and enormous spiritual
ment to search for a suitable
investigate its condition, de-
to make an offer. What price
er is the decision that must be
next, and this can be a killer.
often the list price only
that the house will sell for,
uch cash the buyer has for
eayment and closing costs,
uch he can afford to pay
loan must be considered.
depending on how
other people will also be mak-
ers, a buyer decides what
s willing to pay.

agent and buyer must guess
the market value of any given
is, i.e. the price a ready,
able buyer will pay. Buyers
agents, "How much will
house go for?" And, "What
I have to pay to make sure I
this house?"

no one knows the answers.
offer or offers are presented
seller, until the seller finds one
able and enters into a con-
to sell, it is impossible to ac-
predict what today's mar-
of a given house is.
uch time and thought are
to "sweetening the pot." In
n to offering as high a price
possible, buyers intent on win-
provide the best possible con-
s. They shorten, or elimi-
nately, the period of time they
e to inspect the house after
e in contract. They lean on
an brokers for promises of
and shorter closing periods.
the circumstances are right,
free rent-back time to the
days, or even months, that
er can remain in the house
the sale is closed. They agree
of course, it's almost a given
days) completely "as is." If
use needs a roof, or new fur-
or dry rot repair, the buyer
responsibility for any or all of
not the seller.

they write letters to the
ometimes including photos
selves and their family,
about why they especially
eate this particular house, rea-
why they hope they will be
to be the new owners.
tough it's a shame. People
on a limb, agree to extra-
high purchase prices,
eir hearts and souls, go
than they feel good about
in order to buy a house.
? Why is this necessary?
y and demand. That's the an-
There are more people who
houses here than there are
available for them. This may
be true in St. Louis or in upstate
York (I don't know), but here,
Berkeley, Rockridge, Montclair,
and environs, it is the case.
t's astonishing — incred-
— that there are so
people who have the where-
to compete in this housing
ut, so many who can pay
00, \$800,000, a million dol-
more, to live here.
t this is the case has become
antly clear to sellers. Most of
e tickled to pieces to find at
price they can sell. They lis-

ten to the offers, exclaim with de-
light, and choose to accept one.
the seller and agent decided
the highest price, and the
best written contract, wins, the buyer
the seller believes will close the
sale quickly and easily. But not al-
ways. Sometimes the seller accepts
a lower price from a buyer he has
become attached to, a buyer with
small children, for instance, because
the seller would like children to grow
up in his house.

The seller is pleased, and the
buyer who gets the house is happy,
too. This is how it works most of the
time. But lately we've heard about
something else that is happening,
not often, but in a few cases. Here
is a story of seller greed, one we fab-
ricated, but it is similar to (although
milder than) the stories we've heard.

The seller and agent decided
that \$800,000 is a fair price for the
seller's house. They are hoping that
more than one person may want to
buy it, and if so, it might sell for
more. In fact, there are 5 offers, and
they are all higher than list. The top
two are quite high — \$900,000 and
\$910,000. One buyer is willing to
pay \$90,000 over asking while the
other will pay \$110,000 over. Imag-
ine! But in this case, the seller (and
perhaps, too, his agent) isn't satis-
fied. Instead of signing one of the
contracts, the seller counters both
these offers. He will sell, he says, to
whomever will pay \$975,000. What?
The seller now wants \$175,000 over
what he asked? Yes, he does.

The buyers are dismayed and
angry. They feel they've been blind-

sided. They made their highest and
best offer, agreeing to pay hugely
more than the seller was asking, but
the seller is turning them down. Both
may simply walk away. Or, maybe,
one of them will agree to pay
\$975,000.

But at what price to the seller?
We believe, because we have seen
it demonstrated time and time again,
that a good sale involves more than
money. We know that both buyer
and seller can feel that they have re-
ceived the long end of the stick. It
happens all the time.

For both ethical and practical
reasons, it is important to engen-
der and maintain good will in a
transaction. A buyer who has been
treated badly, one who feels he's
been "taken" is not likely to be

happy. He will very probably im-
mediately begin to question the
goodness of the house. He may
say, "The seller didn't even replace
the sump pump. The downstairs
bathroom is really small. I never did
like the orange Formica."

He's questioning what he's let
himself in for, and he will go on do-
ing it. If he proceeds with the sale
after he moves into the house and
things go wrong (things always do),
he'll still be feeling stupid and there-
fore upset with the seller who made
him feel that way. When it turns out
that replacing the sump pump
doesn't make the basement dry af-
ter all, his thoughts may turn to a
law suit. This sale may not be done
and over; it may go on, although in
another form.

This market is crazy. Sellers are
selling their "goods" at unprece-
dented prices. We think it behoves
sellers and agents to be thankful for
the windfall, but to treat our buyers
rightly and with caring. We wouldn't
be selling at all without them.

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construction. A home you must experience rather than see, exceptional
handcrafted woodwork, distinguished architectural details and many exquisite
updates with the highest quality materials are evident throughout this
incredible home.

- 3 bedrooms, 2 & 1/4 baths
- Formal living & dining rooms
- Sun filled family room
- Office w/built in desk
- Private fenced backyard w/hot tub



Asking price for this fine home is \$619,000



Transferring wealth through a 'transfer tax'

The City of Oakland is up to its old games again. In a town known for its racial diversity and unity, there is still a group being blatantly discriminated against by the same city that panned even a stronger anti-predatory law than the State of California.

The City of Oakland Financial Services Agency is again requiring that people, refinancing their homes be subject to a transfer tax if one or more of the original borrowers transfers off the property due to a bad credit situation.

In the last 12 months, during the refinancing mania, people sought to improve their payment situation by taking advantage of the lower interest rates.

We have the case of the three housemates, unrelated except that they shared a house and mortgage. Like many, they were not concerned with taking out any equity but simply wanted to reduce their monthly mortgage payment. Unfortunately, since they had originally bought the house, one housemate experienced financial problems and had declared a bankruptcy. (We'll call her Sara). Her two housemates had excellent credit and enough income to qualify by themselves.

So Sara agreed to "deed off" the property, just for the purpose of the refinance and then after the transaction recorded, she would go back on title and of course be responsible for her third of the payment.

Now, the City of Oakland, after going through all this trauma a couple of years ago regarding family transfer waivers came up with the Real Property Transfer Tax exemption under section 4.20.05 A. In that the borrower needs to have from the direct lender a signed letter from that funding lender information specific to the transaction.

The city would not accept our letter, although we are duly licensed both with the Department of Real Estate and the City of Oakland. And, we are not talking a small bit of change here. The City of Oakland, known for having probably the highest transfer tax in the state at \$15 per \$1,000, wants over \$3,000 from our borrowers when all they wanted to do, like everybody else, is to make their lives a little more affordable.

The problem facing our borrowers (and a whole group of like people) is that their lender has concerns over their legal liability and is reluctant to write such a letter. Our request is still in with the lender's legal department. In the letter that the City of Oakland mailed in response to our correspondence detailing what the lender needed to do said, "Please obtain a letter containing the missing items indicated to process your exemption request. If you cannot obtain this letter, then the City of Oakland Real



KAREN SENZIG
Mortgage Madness

Multiple offers usually drive the price up

If you decide to jump into a multiple offer fray, know your limits

INMAN NEWS FEATURES

Interest rates are low and home prices aren't escalating at the rate they did a couple of years ago. In some areas, prices have even come down. The market has improved for buyers, particularly in high-priced housing markets like the San Francisco Bay Area where just two years ago it was common to find dozens of buyers competing to buy a single listing.

However, these improved market conditions are bringing buyers out in droves. Many prospective buyers are once again finding themselves making purchase offers in competition with other buyers.

Should you back off from a multiple offer competition? Multiple offers usually drive the price up. So you usually can count on paying more than the asking price if there

If you do decide to jump into a multiple offer fray, set parameters for yourself. Resolve to pay no more than you can comfortably afford.

are more than a few offers on a listing. Recently a listing in Oakland received 15 offers and sold for more than \$100,000 over the asking price.

Did the listing sell for too much? The lender's appraiser didn't think so; the property appraised for the purchase price. Was the listing under-priced? The seller, who wanted a quick sell, set the price. He had already closed on a new home and didn't want to own two homes for longer than necessary.

A change in market conditions was responsible for this bidding frenzy. Inventories of homes for sale dropped in January, which is typical. However, the number of buyers entering the market soared, which is not typical for this time of year, creating an imbalance be-

tween supply and demand. Multiple offers become more common in this kind of a market.

Hause hunting tip: One option to avoid multiple offers is to wait to buy until later in the year when there is likely to be more inventory. Another strategy is to focus on listings that other buyers are passing on, either because they're not priced competitively or because they're cosmetically unappealing. Just make sure that you don't buy a home that has an incurable defect,

like a lousy floor plan or a serious structural problem.

If you do decide to jump into a multiple offer fray, set parameters for yourself. Resolve to pay no more than you can comfortably afford.

But, overpaying is a waste of money for a home you won't last you a long time. And, don't pay more than you can afford when she bought her home.

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6028 Skyline Boulevard, Oakland
Open Sunday 2-4:30. Graceful Mediterranean with exquisite finishes and quality construction. Beautiful windows with sweeping views from three levels. Kitchen with family room opens to garden. Den, library, wine cellar and home office. 4+BR/3BA.

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4400 Keller Ave., Ste 240 • Oakland, CA 94605
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www.richardsones.com

New Listing

Majestic Oak-Studded Estate Property

804 Acalanes Road, Lafayette
Sheltered behind electric gates, this luxury home sits on 2.46 acres of beautifully landscaped property. This 5,200 sq. ft. home has 5 large bedrooms, 5 1/2 baths, gourmet kitchen adjoining spacious family room with fireplace, luxurious master suite with fireplace, 600 sq. ft. media room, and pool. There is a shared tennis court.

\$3,695,000

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International

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COLDWELL BANKER
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New Listing
Open House Sunday,
April 14th, 2-5

Grand Brown Shingle Fixer in the Elmwood neighborhood. Classic Craftsman details. Newer (1995) roof and circa 1950 foundation. There are 4 bedrooms, one with a sitting room. There are one and a quarter baths. Yard is large with magnificent Japanese Maples. Many amenities, including shops, theaters and restaurants in walking distance. This is truly a wonderful home.

\$685,000

All information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



2439 Russell, Berkeley

Rayne Palmer
Office 510. 526. 5143
Voice mail 510. 644. 5272
raynepalmer@aol.com



Prudential
California Realty

Multiple offers usually drive the price up

If you decide to jump into a multiple offer fray, know your limits

INMAN NEWS FEATURES

Interest rates are low and home prices aren't escalating at the rate they did a couple of years ago. In some areas, prices have even come down. The market has improved for buyers, particularly in high-priced housing markets like the San Francisco Bay Area where just two years ago it was common to find dozens of buyers competing to buy a single listing.

However, these improved market conditions are bringing buyers out in droves. Many prospective buyers are once again finding themselves making purchase offers in competition with other buyers.

Should you back off from a multiple offer competition? Multiple offers usually drive the price up. So you usually can count on paying more than the asking price if there

If you do decide to jump into a multiple offer fray, set parameters for yourself. Resolve to pay no more than you can comfortably afford.

are more than a few offers on a listing. Recently a listing in Oakland received 15 offers and sold for more than \$100,000 over the asking price.

Did the listing sell for too much? The lender's appraiser didn't think so; the property appraised for the purchase price. Was the listing under-priced? The seller, who wanted a quick sell, set the price. He had already closed on a new home and didn't want to own two homes for longer than necessary.

A change in market conditions was responsible for this bidding frenzy. Inventories of homes for sale dropped in January, which is typical. However, the number of buyers entering the market soared, which is not typical for this time of year, creating an imbalance be-

tween supply and demand. Multiple offers become more common in this kind of a market.

Hause hunting tip: One option to avoid multiple offers is to wait to buy until later in the year when there is likely to be more inventory. Another strategy is to focus on listings that other buyers are passing on, either because they're not priced competitively or because they're cosmetically unappealing. Just make sure that you don't buy a home that has an incurable defect,

like a lousy floor plan or a serious structural problem.

If you do decide to jump into a multiple offer fray, set parameters for yourself. Resolve to pay no more than you can comfortably afford.

But, overpaying is a waste of money for a home you won't last you a long time. And, don't pay more than you can afford when she bought her home.

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A look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

ATTENTION PUBLIC

Home Buyer Basics
Home Buyer Basics is a workshop for first-time homebuyers. Learn how to find a house, protect yourself in the contract and review inspection reports. Credit scoring, choices and closing costs are covered. The class is conducted by Jim Parkhurst of Prudential California Realty and Karen of RE Loan Mortgage. The seminar will be held tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Albany. There is no cost for the class, but reservations are necessary. Call the Workshop Hotline at 510-718-2134.

Free Remodel Lectures

Upcoming at the Building Education Center are three free lectures. "What You Need to Know Before You Build or Remodel" previews the Homeowner's Essential Course. The preview is presented by builder Glen Kitzinger, on Saturday, April 13 and Monday, April 15. "Choosing to Add On: The Pros and Cons of Building an Addition" is on Sunday, April 14. Author Skip Wenz is the instructor.

First Time Buyer Information

A free first time buyer informational workshop is offered by Loan

free seminar tomorrow from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The instructor is Residential Loan Specialist Stan Johnson. The seminar will be held in San Leandro. Some of the topics covered are credit, low down payments and grant money. A drawing will be held for a dinner for two at Horatio's Restaurant. Reservations are required. Call the Seminar Hotline at 510-614-2436.

Green Remodeling

Planning on remodeling? Think GREEN! This free Green Remodeling Workshop will help homeowners learn to lower their utility bills and use healthier building materials. The workshop is Thursday, April 18, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. It will be held at the Building Education Center on Page Street in Berkeley. The facilitator is Architect Greg VanMechelen of VanMechelen Architects. Each attendee receives a copy of Residential Green Building Guidelines, on how to remodel home in an environmentally sound

Consultant George Johnson of Ameristar Financial. The workshop is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 26. The Ameristar office, on Sycamore Valley Road in Danville is the location. Featured topics are zero percent down payment, FHA and conventional loans. Johnson will offer information on affordable properties. You must RSVP by April 20. Call Johnson at 925-984-3443.

Storybook Houses

The Alameda Museum presents the "Our Houses" lecture series for 2002. Prominent Bay Area authors and historians narrate the slide lectures. The museum is located on Alameda Avenue near Park Street in Alameda. The series is scheduled through June. Thursday, April 25 is the next lecture in the series.

manner. The Resource-full Showcase will be available for participants to visit. The Showcase is a 28-foot trailer with product information for contractors and homeowners. The Alameda County Waste Management Authority and Recycling Board sponsors this event. For questions contact Program Manager Lois Clarke at 510-614-1699.

Storybook Houses

The Building Education Center in Berkeley provides ongoing classes, lectures and events for the experienced and those new to remodeling and renovation. There are evening classes on weekdays and daytime classes on the weekends. For information on classes and costs call the center. Contact Sydney at 510-525-7610 or visit the Web site at [bldgdectr.org](http://www.bldgdectr.org).

architect and author Arrol Gellner is the presenter of "Storybook Houses", a discussion on the architectural styles of the 1920s, with a digression to a unique tract of Storybook homes in Alameda. Call 510-748-0796 for information.

Do It Yourself

The Building Education Center in Berkeley provides ongoing classes, lectures and events for the experienced and those new to remodeling and renovation. There are evening classes on weekdays and daytime classes on the weekends. For information on classes and costs call the center. Contact Sydny at 510-525-7610 or visit the Web site at [bldgdectr.org](http://www.bldgdectr.org).



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Credit Worthy

CERTIFICATION FOR RESIDENTIAL MANAGERS

Take your career to the next level. Become a California Certified Residential Manager. The 2002 CRM Series is held three times in 2002. Each series consists of nine core classes, held on five consecutive Saturdays. The series includes topics such as Supervisory Skills, Fair Housing and Ethics. The courses may be taken individually.

See REID, Page B6

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pacunion.com

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS



At Last! A Clarewood Townhome
COMING SOON. Tucked away under the trees, this two bedroom, two and one half bath townhome is located in the heart of Upper Rockridge, near Village Market and the Claremont Country Club.

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V.M.: 510-869-5732

- Victorian Style Duplex 2 story New Updated Elec. Outlet. New Paint Exterior. New Double Pane Windows. New Plumbing System. New roof (30 Yrs. Guarantee). All work permitted by city. Need some interior work. \$490,000
- Victorian Style House High Ceiling. 2BR/1BA (928 sq. ft.) with large lot (4,800 sq. ft.). AS-IS sale. \$300,000
- Commercial Bldg. Well Maintained. Roof & Plumbing System are 3 years New. Close to Civic Center. \$650,000

Sold!

3 Offers



2 Indian Gulch Road, Piedmont

Offered at \$3,350,000

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264-266 Santa Rosa Avenue
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CHARM OF THE PAST...WITH PRESENT DAY COMFORTS!
Like New! 3 Bedrooms-2 Bath and 2 bedroom-1 bath unit with new kitchens and new appliances. Hardwood floors throughout. Much, Much More! **Offered at \$796,000**



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New Spacious Listing in Redwood Heights
OPEN SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2-4:30PM
3116 Jordan Road, Oakland

Country living at its best!



Spacious 4BR/2.5BA with all

bedrooms on the same level.

Beautifully remodeled kitchen

with adjoining dining area &

family room. Additional

features include a den, library,

decks & level rear yard for

gardening. Attached 2-car

garage. Quiet location. Don't

miss this great opportunity.

Offered at \$579,000

Diane Earl McCann

Senior Sales Consultant. (510) 338-1352

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49-51-53 Edgecroft Road, Kensington



Shown by Appointment

A rare find! A charming Kensington Triplex on a wooded country lane. Beautiful views of San Francisco, the Bay Bridge and Verdant Canyon. Two 2 bedroom flats and a studio apartment. Could be great home and income property. Don't miss!

Offered at \$875,000

John Stasky (510) 525-8800

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REAL ESTATE

BY STASKY & COMPANY REAL ESTATE

~ NEW LISTING ~



61 Lakeview Avenue, Piedmont

Secluded oasis on approximately one-third acre in central Piedmont, this "Craftsman" style home has been renovated with quality finishes and rich architectural detail. 5 bedrooms/3.5 baths; the large gourmet kitchen and family room open to English gardens with year-round color, expansive lawns, park-like spaces for play.

Offered at \$2,850,000

Georgia Cornell

Senior Sales Associate

bus: (510) 338-1325. res: (510) 654-4302

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Reid

FROM PAGE B5

Pre-registration is mandatory and due two weeks before the first class in the series. For a complete list of classes and tuition information call the Rental Housing Association at 510-893-9873.

GET ORGANIZED AT WCR

Feeling disorganized? Join the Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter for "Beyond Organizing" with author **Liz Franklin**. Learn how to reduce workloads and streamline work flow. The luncheon/meeting begins with networking at 11:30, Friday, April 19. The location is the Ark at Pier 29 on 29th Avenue in Oakland (at the foot of the park Street Bridge). For reservations call WCR President, George Johnson of Ameristar Financial at 925-314-8314.

RHA EDUCATION

RHANAC presents "Learn How in 2002", an educational series on a variety of issues affecting rental housing. On April 13 there is a three-hour class on lead. Owners will learn lead exposure precautions and liability. Anyone who paints repairs or renovates or who supervises these activities is expected by OSHA to have taken this course. Classes are held at the Oakland Association of Realtors, on Webster in Oakland. You must pre-register. Contact RHA at 510-893-9873 or via e-mail at RHANAC@pacbell.net.

ARPB UPDATES

■ The Associated Real Property Brokers (ARPB) holds a networking breakfast on the third Wednesday of every month. This month's breakfast is from 8 to 10 a.m., April 17.

The Oak Tree Grille on Embarcadero in Oakland is the location. Real estate agents are encouraged to bring flyers and market their properties. The meeting is open forum. For more information call **Tyrene Cosey** of Fidelity National Title at 510-893-8100.

■ Associated Real Property Brokers members should mark these dates on their calendars. Realtor Week is April 14 to 20. April 27 is Christmas in April and May 27 is the Annual Golf Tournament. To find out more visit the Web site at www.ARPB.org.

DAR NETWORKING LUNCHEON

Attend the Berkeley Association of Realtors monthly networking lun-

cheon. The next luncheon begins at 12:15 p.m., Wednesday, April 17. The speaker is **Alan Kropf**, of Alan Kropf & Associates. Kropf will speak on the latest developments in soil stability and earth movement. The Luncheon is held at the BAR Auditorium. Reservations are a must. Contact **Don Clark** at the BAR office for information and reservations at 510-848-4288.

OAR EDUCATION

Time to renew! Earn all 45 hours continuing education in only one-half day. The seminar is from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Friday, May 17, at the OAR Building, on Webster Street in Oakland. Topics include Ethics, Agency, Fair Housing and Trust Funds, with legal and marketing up-

dates. Tuition includes home study materials. Tuition and attendance information for all OAR educational programs should be addressed to **Mary Williams** of the OAR office at 510-836-3000.

MORTGAGE INDUSTRY

CAMB Dinner And Seminar

Automated Underwriting is the seminar topic at the California Association of Mortgage Brokers' April Dinner-Seminar. This is a two-session seminar. Choose to attend one or both. Mark your calendar for Thursday, April 18, at the Crow Canyon Country Club. The first session, the Automated Underwriting

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\$399,000

Large updated North Oakland beauty! Light-filled rooms. 4 bdrm/2 baths. Double garage. Attic.

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See REID, Page B10

Open Sunday 2-4
777 Colusa Ave., El Cerrito

\$489,000

This stunning 3+ bedroom, 3 bath contemporary home, once featured in Sunset Magazine offers lovely architectural details and flexible use of space. The in-law unit can be used as 4th bedroom, family room or office. The ideal setting is convenient, quiet and peaceful.

Carol Heath-Kim
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APRIL 14, 2002, 2:00-4:30

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Oakmore Tradition!

1st Open! Gracious four bedrooms, two baths home in desirable Oakmore. Elegant formal living and dining rooms, partial bay view, sunny level yard and patio. Two car garage. Offered at \$599,000

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New Piedmont Listings



104 Hazel Lane

Offered at \$1,395,000
Open Sunday 2-4:30

221 Mountain Aven

Offered at \$2,150,000
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909 Pomona Ave., Albany

Open Sun., 2-4
Dreaming of more elbowroom in Albany? Presenting a fabulous 4 bdrm, 3 bath home. Good separation of space graciously accommodates all or extended families. \$595,000. Bill & Tracy x33

514 Masonic, Albany
Open Sun., 2-4:30
New Listing!

A 4 bedroom, 2 bath Albany house that addresses all your needs - hardwood floors, garden, garage with interior access, family room, move-in condition and convenient to all amenities. \$450,000. Norah Brower x26

1517 - 6th @ Cedar, Berkeley
Open Sun., 2-4
New Listing!

Spacious traditional with fabulous potential! Painted exterior - 3 bdrms, 1 bath. Nice details inside. Full basement for second unit, live-work. Big lot - two family zoning. Minutes to 4th St. \$399,000. Warren Lei x14

819 Key Route Blvd., Albany
Open Sun., 2-4
New Listing!

Darling 2 bdrm, 1 bath bungalow. Hardwood floors, formal dining room with built-ins, living room, laundry area. Close to shops, BART, & Albany schools. \$370,000. Bill & Tracy x33

5423 Ruth Ave., Oakland
Open Sun., 2-4:30

Maxwell Park. Charming, updated 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath. Craftsman in sought-after area. Beautiful built-in kitchen with sweet breakfast, garage. \$299,950. Denise Milburn x35

1519 Oxford #J, Berkeley. Open Sun., 2-4.

Best price in Berkeley! Spacious unit in co-op building; only small loan available. Large living room, dining room, kitchen with back door. 2 bdrms, 1.5 baths. Quiet top floor with no shared walls. Offers as written.

\$369,000. Jane A

Specialists in Fine East Bay Properties

ALBANY • BERKELEY • EL CERRITO • KENSINGTON • OAKLAND • PIEDMONT

Charming home near El Cerrito Plaza, BART and shops! 2BR/2BA up, 2 "plus" spaces down with interior access. French doors lead from master bdrm to deck with "Peek of the Bay" view! Inviting front & rear gardens with greenhouse!

Open Sun. 2-4, Alice McLeish (510) 527-2700 x35

Very spacious! 1500+ sq. ft. 2 bedroom, 2 bath Pinole charmer. Most rooms look out to pretty patio & deck. Fireplace, formal dining room, living room w/skylight, large master bedroom suite.

Open Sun. 2-4, Alice McLeish (510) 527-2700 x35

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WEEKLY SALES

DA
 Eagle Av - \$530,000
 Mainland Dr - \$422,000
 Purcell Dr - \$675,000
 Sunset Rd - \$280,000

EL CERRITO
 Cornell Av - \$350,000
 Kains Av - \$375,000
 Marin Av - \$491,000
 Masonic Av - \$359,000
 Pomona Av - \$320,000

LEY
 67th St - \$290,000
 7th St - \$280,000
 California St - \$435,000
 Channing Wy - \$301,000
 Del Norte St - \$500,000

1429 Edith St - \$531,000
 1139 Euclid Av - \$475,000
 2905 King St - \$357,000
 1603 Marin Av - \$400,000
 711 Spruce St - \$915,000

KENSINGTON
 31 Arlington Av - \$520,000

OAKLAND
 1612 100th Av - \$181,000
 2642 25th Av - \$300,000
 464 28th St - \$417,500
 696 31st St - \$250,000
 821 34th Av - \$190,000
 1520 35th Av - \$247,000
 441 37th St - \$340,000
 917 46th St - \$330,000
 1444 48th Av - \$175,000
 204 4th St #412 - \$347,000
 1110 53rd St - \$350,000
 2727 61st Av - \$290,000
 1358 62nd Av - \$175,000
 1814 70th Av - \$150,000
 1240 75th Av - \$187,000
 2644 75th Av - \$145,000

EL SOBRANTE
 2288 Bristlecone Dr - \$450,000
 1153 Kelvin Rd - \$485,000
 3954 La Cresenta - \$264,000
 5365 Sobrante Av - \$255,000
 3858 Valley Ln - \$100,000

EMERYVILLE
 2 Commodore #283 - \$295,000

2401 80th Av - \$283,500
 1755 81st Av - \$233,500
 1756 82nd Av - \$400,000
 1954 88th Av - \$369,000
 2115 8th Av - \$290,000
 266 Adams St #303 - \$272,000
 1725 Alhambra Ln - \$720,000
 565 Bellevue #105 - \$283,000
 697 Calmar Av - \$886,000
 5759 Claremont Av - \$520,000
 137 Colgett Dr - \$535,000
 6101 Contra Costa - \$1,750,000
 9657 D St - \$201,500
 5658 Dover St - \$315,000
 3010 East 29th St - \$220,000
 6100 Estates Dr - \$750,000
 1848 Gaspar Dr - \$505,000
 77 Graeagle - \$400,000
 5519 Harmon Av - \$396,000
 2035 High St - \$330,000
 6218 Hilton St - \$217,000
 1178 Holman Rd - \$666,000

1558 Holman Rd - \$495,000
 4175 Howe St - \$315,000
 2506 Leimert Bl - \$550,000
 3225 Lynde St - \$410,000
 695 Mariposa #101 - \$275,000
 1523 Miller Av - \$230,000
 45 Moss Av - \$449,000
 3715 Nevil St - \$200,000
 3309 Nicol Av - \$330,000
 6482 Outlook Av - \$410,000
 9224 Peach St - \$246,000
 5167 Saddle Brook - \$500,000
 99 Shadow M'tain - \$395,000
 5253 Trask St - \$269,000
 6212 Valley View - \$345,000

RICHMOND
 130 15th St - \$249,000
 163 18th St - \$165,000
 552 21st St - \$215,000
 1114 24th St - \$225,000
 2929 Alta Mira Dr - \$270,000
 6011 Arlington Bl - \$369,500
 1025 Barrett Av - \$240,000
 2436 Chanslor Av - \$224,000
 3103 Fiesta Ct - \$350,000
 2912 Florida Av - \$205,000
 2616 Gaynor Av - \$296,000
 5361 Glenwood Wy - \$460,000
 53 Harbor View Dr - \$615,000
 117 Maine Av - \$179,000
 2621 Maine Av - \$150,000
 3211 Nevin Av - \$205,500
 2205 Ohio Av - \$190,000

See SALES, Page B9

PIEDMONT - OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30 P.M.



104 HAZEL LANE

\$1,395,000

PIEDMONT. Now's your chance to live on one of Piedmont's most sought after locations. Enjoy perfection and light including magical gardens and a great floor plan with five bedrooms upstairs. Anian Pettit Tunney



PIEDMONT MANSION

\$2,950,000

Stately Regency Revival mansion - meticulously renovated. 6BR/4.5BA, expansive kitchen, terraces on 2 levels w/sweeping Bay views. Nancy Lehrkind



EXQUISITE TUDOR

\$2,750,000

This simply exquisite Tudor style home is sited on approx. 1/3 of an acre w/garden, 5BR, kitchen/family room plus elevator & wine cellar. Anian Pettit Tunney

PIEDMONT - BY APPOINTMENT



223 LINDA AVENUE

\$949,000

PIEDMONT. Rare opportunity - brown shingle 4-plex in one of the East Bay's most sought after neighborhoods. Close to schools, transportation, shopping & entertainment. Mavis Delacroix



PRIVACY & PERFECTION

\$975,000

This home offers classic mid-century charm & elegant lifestyle change. Move right in to this 3BR home & enjoy the remodeled kitchen, bath & gardens. Anian Pettit Tunney



SPACIOUS PIEDMONT

\$689,000

This lovely Prairie-style home has four bedrooms, two and one half baths, a spacious living room, formal dining room, cozy den and eat-in kitchen. Mavis Delacroix

OAKLAND - OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30 P.M.



6013 SKYLINE BLVD.

\$2,300,000

Live in a work of art. Stunning new home by David Stark Wilson. Maximum privacy w/sweeping Bay views. Exceptional architecture & finishes. Steve Michaelides



5953 MANCHESTER DR.

\$1,950,000

Beautiful rebuild of 30's Monterey colonial! Fabulous Bay views! 5+BR/4BA, large family room, two-car garage, landscaped gardens! Bebe McRae

6023 SKYLINE BLVD.

\$1,750,000

Graceful Mediterranean w/exquisite finishes. Top of the world views from 3 levels. Kitchen/family room opens to garden. 4+BR/3BA, library, wine cellar & office. Jill Carrigan

1300 MOUNTAIN BLVD.

\$949,000

Stunning Janzen contemporary close to Village. 4BR/2.5BA, formal dining room, kitchen/family room, level to garden. Handsome, w/quality detailing. Katherine Cooper

230 SHERIDAN ROAD

\$829,000

Upper Rockridge sophistication. 3BR suites, new kitchen, cozy family room with fireplace, sweeping Oakland hills view and level garden. John Karnay

6226 CHABOT ROAD

\$775,000

Heart of Rockridge charmer! Light & bright, split level. 3+BR/2BA, breakfast room, formal dining room, built-ins and beautiful details. Close to BART. Tricia Swift

4350 BRIDGEVIEW DRIVE

\$749,000

Elegant Spanish Mediterranean w/old world charm. Handsome formal rooms, remodeled kitchen, sunny breakfast room, family room & garden. Sherry Benninger

5350 LAWTON STREET

\$645,000

Wonderful 4BR/2BA Craftsman style bungalow, in great Rockridge location. Unspoiled interior details. Redone floors, fresh paint, more! Nacio Brown



30 ROANOKE ROAD

\$559,000

Mediterranean Retreat! Alluring 2-story home w/lush private gardens, water fountains, Bay views & hot tub. Minutes from Rockridge BART. 2BR/1.5BA. Chris Cohn

1586 TRESTLE GLEN RD.

\$659,000

Enjoy the architectural charm of this stunning 3BR traditional with remodeled kitchen. Located in the desirable Trestle Glen neighborhood. Sheila Gallagher



2947 ELMWOOD COURT

\$695,000

Very special brown shingle on a quiet cul-de-sac in prestigious Claremont. 3BR/3BA, den, formal dining room and spacious garden. Bebe McRae

BERKELEY & KENSINGTON - OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30 P.M.



85 GRAVATT DRIVE

\$2,250,000

New, world class Mediterranean w/stellar 4 bridge/Bay view above the Claremont Hotel. Great entertaining spaces, large terraces, level garden. Debra J. Dryden

OAKLAND

\$2,500,000

VILLA ESTATE Built to surpass your dreams. Magnificent arched double doors & custom design kitchen complete w/pizza oven. Elevator from 3-car garage. Debra J. Dryden



BERKELEY COMPOUND

\$2,495,000

Extraordinary Berkeley compound in gated park-like setting. Extensively renovated. 3+BR/3.5BA main house, two 1BR apt. Meditation studio + extra lot. Susie Schevill

MINI ESTATE

\$1,025,000

Piedmont Pines mini estate with stream, ponds and waterfalls. Exciting 4BR/3BA architect's home w/updated kitchen, family room & library. Linda McClain

NORTHSIDE CONDO-TO-BE

\$900,000

Fabulous Northside condo-to-be, close to campus, gourmet ghetto & more. Front unit 2BR/1.5BA. Condo conversion in process. Style & privacy! Tricia Swift



BERKELEY & KENSINGTON - BY APPOINTMENT

63 ARDMORE ROAD

\$595,000

KENSINGTON, 4BR/2.5BA (incl master). Lush & private garden. Deck. Garage. Top rated school! Near SF transportation, restaurants & shops! Lori Lombardo



GRUBB CO.

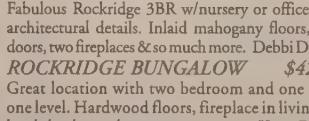
\$599,000

Fabulous Rockridge 3BR w/nursery or office, rich in architectural details. Inlaid mahogany floors. French doors, two fireplaces & so much more. Debbi DiMaggio

ROCKRIDGE BUNGALOW

\$425,000

Great location with two bedroom and one bath on one level. Hardwood floors, fireplace in living room, level back garden. Kurt Buchholz



the GRUBB Co.
REALTORS

60 MOUNTAIN BLVD.

339.0400

GRUBB CO. COM

To contact the real estate editor,
call 510-748-1655 or e-mail
devanosky@cctimes.com

OPEN SUNDAY
April 14th 2-4 p.m.



El Cerrito - \$319,000
6403 Conlon Avenue
2 bedrooms/ 1 bath, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen, fireplace in living room, large corner lot, large detached garage, central heat.

Diane Sindel-Deutsche
Broker/Owner
Phone: 510-524-8508
DianeSDeutsche@aol.com

Jeans
REALTY

Open Sunday, April 14, 2-5pm



13470 Campus Drive, Oakland

Rare 3 acre estate with gated, private drive. This contemporary home has a library, family room, rec room, 4BR/3.5BA and more. Don't miss this opportunity to own your own park!

\$1,395,000


Vicki Woodhead
Senior Sales Consultant
(510) 338-1334

PACIFIC UNION
GMAC Real Estate Services

HAL & KATE CASTLE
"MONTCLAIR'S TEAM"



Phone Us for the Value of Your Home
510-339-9778

 HERITAGE REAL ESTATE
FINE HOMES & ESTATES
6211 La Salle Avenue - Oakland, CA 94611

Upper Rockridge Treasure



4921 Proctor Avenue
Spanish Mediterranean in exclusive upper Rockridge with dramatic entry and sweeping Bay views.

\$1,239,000

Open Sunday 2-4:30


Heidi Marchesotti
Phone: (510) 339-9290
UPPER ROCKRIDGE SPECIALIST

Prudential California Realty

SPECIALISTS IN FINE EAST BAY PROPERTIES

BERKELEY HILLS REALTY**MAXWELL PARK**5423 Ruth Ave., Oak.
Open Sunday 2-4:30

Charming, updated Craftsman in sought-after area. Beautiful, gumwood moldings & built-ins throughout. Gorgeous architectural details, hardwood floors, lg. kitchen w/sweet breakfast nook. Full unfinished basement. Detached garage. Pretty, professional landscaped private backyard. Many upgrades including roof, furnace, electrical, kitchen & lots more! Offered at \$299,950

**Denise Milburn**510.524.1700 x35
dilmilburn@yahoo.comwww.berkhills.com • 1714 Solano Ave. • 510.524.9888**PIEDMONT SPANISH ELEGANCE****Coming Soon**

This charming Mediterranean home has a Renaissance inspired entry with "Churrigueresque" style columns, arched windows, balconies, and French doors present in the flowering front and back gardens. The two-story includes formal living and dining rooms, two fireplaces, three bedrooms and two plus baths. Price upon request.

Rose A. JellisonFine Home Specialist
510-433-2865
rose.jellison@pruweb.comPrudential
California Realty
342 Highland Ave, Piedmont**The Bay Area's Most Trusted Name In Security****Home & Business Security Systems****24-Hour Emergency Repair Service****24-Hour UL Listed Monitoring Center**

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Call today for a FREE security review.

800-610-1000www.bayalarm.com

ACO 28 CCL #261003

www.EastBayTeam.com**Open House Sunday**

1:30 - 4:30 pm

**Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood**

4384 Howe. This 2 bedroom, 2 bath home features a 2 yr. old kitchen with granite counters, dishwasher, stove & refrigerator. Fireplace in formal dining room. Upgraded baths. Laundry w/washer & dryer. Deck. A Must See!

Tour #812

\$449,000**Contemporary Hills Home**

7932 Sterling Dr. This contemporary 3 bedroom, 2 bath home features wood floors and a brick fireplace. It has a rumpus room with a wet bar attached garage. Large, secluded back yard in a woodsy setting.

Tour #811

**Call for Audio Tours at (877) 689-4395****"Your East Bay Team"****(510) 625-8900***Lorne Lenz, Broker*

Young California Homes, L.P.
presents

AltaVilla

MODELS NOW OPEN!

Actual view from AltaVilla

Sales Office Open
10am to 5pm
Monday - Sunday

4 to 5 bedroom homes
Ranging from 2700 to 3200 sq. ft.
Prices in the \$800,000's

5101 Rockwood
Oakland, CA 94611
(510) 531-5311

Sales

FROM PAGE B7

4719 Overend Av - \$185,000
801 Poppy Ct - \$340,000
755 Rock Rose Wy - \$445,500
1428 S'piper Spit - \$15,000
340 South 29th St - \$203,000
653 South 29th St - \$64,500
425 South 38th St - \$218,000
440 Stege Av - \$211,000

SAN LEANDRO

1467 140th Av - \$315,000
1566 140th Av - \$370,000
15637 Anchorage - \$455,000
13215 Aurora Dr - \$322,500
825 Billings Bl - \$330,000
14429 Colgate St - \$340,000
400 Davis St #111 - \$260,000
1064 Glen Dr - \$432,500
15530 Harbor Wy - \$500,000
1537 Hays St - \$300,000
963 Helen Av - \$342,000
248 Julius St - \$260,000
432 Linnell Av - \$365,000
980 Melcher St - \$296,000
812 Odonnell Av - \$304,000
13737 Seagate Dr - \$340,000
2190 Somerset Av - \$279,000
867 Sybil Av - \$300,000
15486 Tern Ct - \$360,000
15284 Upton Av - \$305,000
2635 West Av 130th - \$300,000
18018 Windsor Dr - \$395,000

By the numbers

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ALBANY

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BERKELEY

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EL SOBRANTE

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OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 53
LOWEST PRICE: \$145,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,750,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$330,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$378,038

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$701,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$2,400,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$985,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$1,362,333

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 25
LOWEST PRICE: \$64,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$615,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$224,000

AVERAGE PRICE: \$263,600

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 22
LOWEST PRICE: \$260,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$500,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$326,250
AVERAGE PRICE: \$339,591

This list is provided by California REsource 510-568-7233 a real estate information company that obtains the information from the County Recorder's Office.

Neither California REsource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CalREsource @aol.com.

Enjoy the freedom of home ownership

The best preparation for a first-time homebuyer is education. Learn more about taking this important step at "Freedom of Ownership: How To Buy Your First Or Next Home," a free seminar this Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the lower level conference room, in the Sanwa Building in San Leandro, at the corner of Hesperian Boulevard and East 14th Street.

Top producer and Residential Loan Specialist Stan Johnson of First Security Loan is the facilitator. With 11 years in the business, Johnson has seen the many facets of the real estate market and helped many people find homes, in even the most discouraging times for buyers.

Johnson will speak on purchasing with \$500 down payments

and no out-of-pocket closing costs. Participants will learn about available grant money, 100 percent financing, FHA and VA programs and the Community Reinvestment Act. Attendees can be pre-qualified

and receive a free initial credit report. There will be refreshments and a "Dinner For Two" door prize at Horatio's Restaurant in San Leandro. A reservation is required. RSVP at 510-614-2436.

Free window replacement seminar

■ Back by popular demand

Truitt & White Lumber Company announces a Marvin Replacement Window Clinic from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 20.

The clinic will offer homeowners and contractors the opportunity to learn about the advantages of replacement windows, tips and tech-

niques for installations, and the many options available.

Marvin professionals will demonstrate how to measure for replacement windows and present an overview of the numerous Marvin Window products.

Truitt & White is located at 642 Hearst Ave. in Berkeley. For more information about the seminar call 510-841-0511.

Oakmore English Tudor
Open Sunday, April 14, 2-4:30pm



1721 Beimert Blvd., Oakland

Beautiful gardens • Original details • Eat-in updated kitchen

3 bedrooms including master suite • 2 full baths



Dick Cohen
Senior Sales Consultant
(510) 338-1308



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Claremont Pines



Still searching for your dream home in Upper Rockridge?

Don't give up!

You have the opportunity to choose from five August Company build-to-suit lots. August Company homes are featured on:

- The Food Network - Ultimate Kitchen
- Home & Garden - Curb Appeal
- Traditional New Home Magazine
- San Francisco Home Section

View at: AugustCompany.com

Contact:

Heidi Marchesotti

Phone: (510) 339-9290
UPPER ROCKRIDGE SPECIALIST



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★ Indicates Homes Being Held Open

OAKLAND/PIEDMONT

★ Open Sunday 2-4 \$339,000

432 50th St., Oakland. Temescal District. 2+ BR/1 BA home, convenient to fwy., transit, more!

Connie Payne

(510) 524-2526

Convenient Location! \$289,000

Spacious 4 BR/2 BA home with huge yard, new roof, new carpet & paint. Zoned duplex.

Wendy Louie

(510) 273-9306; (510) 849-3711

★ Open Sunday 2-4:30 \$1,239,000

4921 Proctor. Spanish Mediterranean 4 BR/3.5 BA w/dramatic entry and sweeping Bay views!

Heidi Marchesotti

(510) 339-9290

Convenient Location! \$289,000

Spacious 4 BR/2 BA home with huge yard, new roof, new carpet & paint. Zoned duplex.

Muriel or Jay C.

(510) 834-2010

★ Open Sunday 2-4:30 \$749,000

990 Grosvenor Place. Sunny 3+ BR/2.5 BA Tudor w/ tasteful upgrades and major improvements!

Howard Converse

(510) 339-9290

Convenient Location! \$289,000

Spacious 4 BR/2 BA home with huge yard, new roof, new carpet & paint. Zoned duplex.

Arthur White

(510) 845-0200

★ Open Sunday 2-4:30 \$549,000

3659 Redwood Road. Redwood Heights Tudor. Gracious 5 BR/2.5 BA home. Dramatic LR & FDR, updated kitchen, bsmt., lovely garden, space & charm!

Dolores Thom

(510) 834-2010

Convenient Location! \$289,000

Spacious 4 BR/2 BA home with huge yard, new roof, new carpet & paint. Zoned duplex.

Janine Moulton

(510) 527-9800

★ Open Sunday 2-4:30 \$549,000

5807 Morpeth. House & Garden!

Adorable, sunny one-level home in million \$ neighborhood. Gorgeous garden, 2 BR/1 BA.

Julie Lehman

(510) 845-0211

Convenient Location! \$289,000

Spacious 4 BR/2 BA home with huge yard, new roof, new carpet & paint. Zoned duplex.

Logene Butler

(510) 524-2526

★ Open Sunday 2-4:30 \$250,000

3541 68th Ave. Mills College

Find! 3 BR/2 BA find in great E. Bay spot! Huge yard, bucolic setting, updated kitchen.

Candice Economides

(510) 845-0200

Convenient Location! \$289,000

Spacious 4 BR/2 BA home with huge yard, new roof, new carpet & paint. Zoned duplex.

Carol Heath-Kim

(510) 527-9800

★ Open Sunday 2-4:30 \$199,000

2249 Russell. Berkeley/Elmwood.

Grand brown shingle fixer, classic details! 4+ BR, 1+ BA, great yard!

Rayne Palmer

(510) 526-5143

Convenient Location! \$289,000

Spacious 4 BR/2 BA home with huge yard, new roof, new carpet & paint. Zoned duplex.

Jorge Jimenez

(510) 869-5885

★ Open Sunday 2-4:30 \$498,000

71 Turtle Creek. Tastefully renovated 3 BR/2.5 BA w/beautiful garden. It's a 10!

Myrdice Wong

(510) 339-9290

Convenient Location! \$289,000

Spacious 4 BR/2 BA home with huge yard, new roof, new carpet & paint. Zoned duplex.

Michael Friedman

(510) 845-0200

★ Open Sunday 2-4:30 \$498,000

1294 Holman Road. Sparkling Spanish 2 BR/1 BA bungalow

w/hwd. flrs. and expansion poss.

Vikki Landes

(510) 339-9290

Convenient Location! \$289,000

Spacious 4 BR/2 BA home with huge yard, new roof, new carpet & paint. Zoned duplex.

Derek Lyon

(510) 845-0200

★ Open Sunday 2-4:30 \$469,000

1402 Dwight Way. 2 BR/1 BA

Craftsman 3 BR, 1 BA. Beautiful interior woodwork, close to shopping.

Janine Moulton

(510) 845-020

Reid

FROM PAGE B8

Workshop is from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The second session is a panel discussion on the Future of Automated Underwriting, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The CAMB Hotline is 925-275-2663. **CARL Golf Outing**

The California Association of Residential Lenders announced its sign up time for the 15th Annual East Bay CARL Golf Tournament. Watch this column for more details on this sell out event or call **Frank Monaco, Jr.** of Consumer Home Loans at 925-833-9066.

Breakfast Club

Join the lively Wednesday Morning Breakfast Meetings, presented by the California Association of Residential Lenders (CARL). Meetings are held every Wednesday at American Title in Walnut Creek on Olympic Boulevard. Start time begins promptly at 8:15 a.m. Breakfast refreshments are served. Need info? Want to recommend a speaker? Call **Pat Johnson** of TRI Commercial Real Estate Services at 925-296-3300.

Please recycle this newspaper.

1910 Rockridge Charmer on tree-lined street



442 62nd Street

Two bedroom, one bath. Large separate studio/office in back. Lovely yard. Walk to everything!



LEE GOODWIN
(510) 848-1950 Ext. 238

THORNWALL Properties

NEW LISTING!

North Berkeley Beauty



1152 Amador Avenue

This charming 1916 Craftsman style home offers the rare combination of character and convenience. Situated on a quiet tree-lined street within walking distance to Berkeley gourmet restaurants, shops and public transportation. This 3 bedroom, 3 full bath home offers sweeping views of the Golden Gate and San Francisco Bay. First time on the market in 49 years.

Offered at \$775,000

Open House Next Sunday, April 21st 2pm - 5pm

Haideh Chew

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Phone 510-428-0900
Voice Mail 510-287-9003

In the heart of Piedmont...
342 Highland Avenue
Piedmont, Ca 94617

Prudential California Realty



NEW LISTING Open Sunday, April 14, 2-4:30pm



6361 Fairlane Drive, Oakland

Absolutely smashing new custom Mediterranean designed by San Francisco architects Hunt, Hale, and Jones.

Approximately 4200 sq. ft. • 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths

Lovely spacious formal rooms • Large master suite w/sitting room

His & Hers walk-in closets • Back yard, decks, Bay views

Easy access to BART, freeways & shopping

Offered at \$1,495,000

Dee Knowland
Senior Sales Associate
510/338-1318

PACIFIC UNION
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WHO'S ON FIRST?

■ **Bev Munzer**, Manager of Coldwell Banker in Oakland announced a name for one of their sales associates. Realtor **Judy Rankanakan** has retaken her maiden name. She is now known as **Judy O. Ackerman**. Although her name is changed, she promises to provide the same professional service. Ackerman is available at 510-339-4700.

■ Someone new at your company? Something special your company is doing? Changing locations? Putting on a seminar? Let me know. I'd love to let the world know. All my contact info is listed below.

WHAT'S UP DOC??

I need your information for this column. Fund-raisers, meetings, announcements, promotions, designations and change of scenery (company). I want to know it all. Information deadline is two weeks before the event.

There are three ways to reach me. Send an e-mail to **bob-biereid@dotplanet.com**. Fax your info to me at 510-441-7191. Call me at 510-441-7190.

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS



5445 Estates Drive, Upper Rockridge

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. A wonderful home that has been remodeled throughout! Open beam ceilings in the living room, hardwood floors, two bedrooms one and one half baths, A very private setting.

Offered at \$525,000

JOSEPHINE O'SHAUGHNESSY

OFFICE: 510.339.0400/308

GRUBB CO. COM

KURT BUCHHOLZ

OFFICE: 510.339.0400/221

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NEW LISTINGS

Coming Soon 3-Bridge View



6023 Ascot Drive, Oakland

Wonderful Piedmont Pines traditional with incredible San Francisco and Golden Gate views! Remodeled with taste and quality, this home offers 4BR/4BA, dining room, rumpus room and in-law potential.



Vicki Woodhead
Senior Sales Consultant
(510) 338-1334

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BETTER HOMES REALTY

Edith Marcus

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COMING SOON...

If it's charm you're after...



First Time offered in 50 years!

Spanish Charmer with Outstanding Views. Lovingly maintained, featuring 3 Large Bedrooms, one Extra Large Bathroom, Large Formal Dining and Living Rooms and... all with newly refinished hardwood floors. Arched doorways and windows, period light fixtures, and a beautiful fireplace all add to this home's character. The double-sized lot includes an oversized detached garage and separate workshop and there's still room to grow and expand! Almost ready, call now for details, you don't want to miss this one!

\$399,000

F. Rick Bowles
415.786.5511
Reliance Realty Group

Upper Rockridge



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your dream
home in Upper
Rockridge?

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Contact:

Heidi Marchesotti
Phone: (510) 339-9290
UPPER ROCKRIDGE SPECIALIST



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SPECIALISTS IN FINE EAST BAY PROPERTIES

BERKELEY HILLS
REALTY



ALBANY
514 Masonic Avenue
Open Sunday 2-4:30

Spacious Albany house with 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and a family room out to a good-sized yard. Walking distance to schools, Solano Avenue shops, theatre, restaurants, library, BART and easy access to freeway. Offered at \$495,000



Norah Brower
510.524.9888 x26
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UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

\$339,000

2BR 1BA home over 1000 sq.ft., hardwood floors, new kitchen, long driveway, large dining room, fireplace, new interior paint, live and own a business if you want. #02009035 Lolie Lourenco 510-697-0239

BERKELEY

EL CERRITO

NEW LISTING/DUET TOWNHOME

\$289,000

3BR 2.5BA almost 1400 sq.ft., 1 block to BART, new: carpeting, linoleum, & paint. Master suite, dining room, brick fireplace, 2 car attached garage. Move-in condition. #02007789 Ed Shelton 510-662-9522

NEW LISTING/CLOSE TO BART

\$399,000

3BR 2BA approx. 1100 sq.ft. Converted garage w/permit, fireplace, hardwood floors, RV parking, well maintained. #02006201 Bing Pierce 510-273-9175

FABULOUS BAY VIEWS/GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD

\$495,000

4+BR 2BA w/Family Room, almost 1900 sq.ft., 2 car attached garage, fireplace, deck, patio, and garden at rear, central heat. #02008193 www.carladellazzoppa.com 510-662-8558

MAGNIFICENT BAY VIEWS!

\$498,900

4+BR 3BA, over 2000 sq.ft. home with completely remodeled kitchen, large rumpus room, fireplace, central heat, possible laundry, laundry and storage area, oversized garage. #02009203 Noreen Buller 510-662-8532

RICHMOND ANNEX

COMFORTABLE HOME W/LARGE BACKYARD

\$250,000

3BR 1.5BA 2 car attached garage, approx. 1324 sq.ft., close to freeway, BART, and schools, lots of fruit trees, cozy and quiet. #02007243 Marcella Morrison 510-222-8340

PT. RICHMOND VIEW

CUTE BROWN-SHINGLE HOME ON LARGE LOT \$339,950

\$339,950

2BR 1BA, new roof, clear termite report, 2 car garage, views of the bay, great property w/character. #02003895 Evelyn Phillip 510-662-9492

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Thousand Oaks
— FINANCIAL —

1225 Solano Avenue, Albany, 94706

Open Sunday

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$2,149,000

5926 MARGARITO DR. (Open 2-4:30)

Exquisite new custom built Mediterranean villa. 5BR/4.5BA, views, terraces, elevator, 4-car garage. Total quality & beauty. Dee Knowland x1318

OAKLAND HILLS \$1,495,000

6361 FAIRLANE DR. (Open 2-4:30)

New Listing! Smashing new custom Mediterranean. 5BR/5.5BA, spacious formal rooms & bay views. Large master suite, decks, yard. Dee Knowland x1318

CLAREMONT \$1,495,000

614 ALVARADO RD. (Open 2-4)

One of a kind! Classic 1993 Colonial preserves the spirit of the original 1922 home. Exceptional quality & detailing. 4BR/3BA, SF & GG views, terraced gardens. Leslie Easterday x1363

RIDGEMONT \$1,395,000

13470 CAMPUS DR. (Open 2-5)

Rare 3-acre estate w/gated, private drive. 4BR/3BA, library, family room, rec room & more. Don't miss this opportunity to own your own park! Vicki Woodhead x1334

PIEDMONT \$1,350,000

107 REQUA ROAD (Open 2-4:30)

New Listing! Stylish, dramatic mid-century design. Expansive SF/bay views. 3BR/3BA, sunroom. Martha Holstlaw x1312

MONTCLAIR \$1,300,000

6191 VIRGO RD. (Open 2-4:30)

Wonderful Mediterranean w/fabulous SE Golden Gate, Bay View. Built by Jeff Armstrong, lots of built-ins & lots of extras. 4BR/3.5BA, 3 fireplaces, fully equipped gym. Francis Heath x1357

MONTCLAIR \$1,295,000

6235 CASTLE DRIVE (Open 1-4)

New Listing! French Normandy surrounded by beautiful gardens on nearly 1/2 acre lot recently found in Montclair. 4BR/5BA w/ballroom, turret rm, custom kit, & bay views. Close to parks & trails. Donna Costella x1355

HILLER HIGHLANDS \$929,000

522 STARVIEW DR. (Open 2-4:30)

Spectacular bay view townhome. 3BR/3BA, spacious light filled rooms, fireplaces in living room & master, beautiful details, private courtyard patio. Leslie Avant x1341

Licensed by CA Dept. of Real Estate
Lender Approval By Phone
510-559-3330 ext. 104
swalden@thousandoakfinancial.com

1225 Solano Avenue, Albany, 94706

Open Sunday

Open Sunday

Open Sunday

The GRUBB Co.



8 Park Way, Piedmont

Offered at \$949,000

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just ask our clients

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JUST SOLD

6097 COLTON DR.
OFFERED AT \$734,0001725 ALHAMBRA LN.
OFFERED AT \$729,0006650 LIGGETT DR.
OFFERED AT \$599,00036 RYDAL CT.
OFFERED AT \$719,000

Recent Montclair Sellers I've represented.

Terri Carlisle
Senior Sales Consultant
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Open Sunday

Open Sunday

Open Sunday

PIEDMONT \$899,000

340 EL CERRITO AVE. (Open 2-4:30)

This charming home is located in central Piedmont close to schools & parks. Warm period details combine w/tastefully updated features. 3BR/1.5BA, enclosed yard. Sandi Klemmer x1314

MONTCLAIR \$869,000

888 MOUNTAIN BLVD. (Open 2-4:30)

New Listing! Distinctive traditional w/wonderful architectural details. Hardwood floors w/cherry inlay, box beam ceiling in living room. 3BR/2.5BA. Level garden & patio. Close to the Village. Nancy Moore x1302

MONTCLAIR \$869,000

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OAKMERE \$649,000

1721 LEIMERT BLVD. (Open 2-4:30)

New Listing! English Tudor w/charming architectural details. Hrdwd flrs, built-ins & vaulted ceilings. 3BR/2BA, updated eat-in kitchen, basement w/shop, 1-car garage. Many improvements. Dick Cohen x1308

ROCKMERE \$595,000

5356 THOMAS AVE. (Open 2-4:30)

New Listing! Very special 3BR craftsman bungalow w/original Arts & Crafts details & bright custom kitchen. Filtered Bay & city views, level fenced yard, versatile semi-finished garage. Gini Erck x1339

MONTCLAIR \$499,000

5356 THOMAS AVE. (Open 2-4:30)

New Listing! Very special 3BR craftsman bungalow w/original Arts & Crafts details & bright custom kitchen. Filtered Bay & city views, level fenced yard, versatile semi-finished garage. Gini Erck x1339

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5356 TH

House hunting this weekend? Turn to Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section first

6427 Pinehaven Road \$629,000

Montclair Charmer with Plenty of Extras

This unique and wonderful home includes: 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, Eat-in-Kitchen, Office Room, Sun Room, Loft, and In-law unit. Downstairs room can be converted to family room. There is also a nice size back and side yard.

Key Features:

- Quiet Wooded Neighborhood
- Walking Distance to Montclair Village
- Close to Thornhill Elementary School
- Commuter Friendly
- 10 minutes drive to the Rockridge BART Station. Minutes from Hwy. 13
- Close to Temescal Park



Open House Sunday
April 14th & Sunday April 21st

Prudential California Realty

Angie Williams
Prudential California Realty
2077 Mountain Blvd., Oakland
(510) 869-4222 Voice
angiew2@pacbell.net



COMING...Very, Very Soon!



Rockridge Rocks! Quintessential two-plus bedroom, one bathroom bungalow ideally situated near BART, College Avenue and golf course. Sunny, corner location. Formal dining room with built-ins. Hard and soft-wood floors. Tastefully upgraded throughout. Delightful garden.

Offered at \$499,000

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Elegant Piedmont Contemporary Estate

NOW AVAILABLE

5 bedrooms,
4 full and 2
half-baths on
approximately
1/3 acre

Offered at
\$2,475,000



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JUST SOLD!

32 NEVA COURT, MONCLAIR



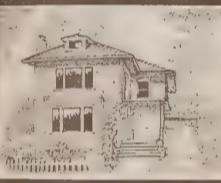
Listed at \$998,000

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Classic 2 story beauty. Formal DR w/built-in
wainscoting. Modern kitchen
dining area open to deck & patio. Super
bdr & an office.
Kim Marienthal.....510.486.1495



PIEDMONT
3-BR/2.5BA.....\$1,350,000
Elegant double entry, gracious, formal living
& dining rooms, captivating Bay views.
beautiful swimming pool and garden.
Evelyn Walker.....510.339.4700



SAINT PAUL COURT
3-BR/2.5BA.....\$839,000
Elegant Rockridge traditional with newer eat-in
kitchen, spacious living room opening to
garden. Great living Open Sunday
Michael Thompson.....510.339.4700

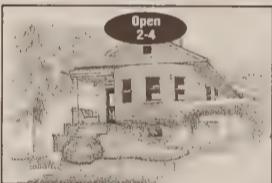
COLDWELL BANKER



SPLIT PERSONALITY.....\$369,000

Live/work condo. Terrific design in great location.
Ideal for small business, art work, photography.
Near 4th St. shops/restaurants

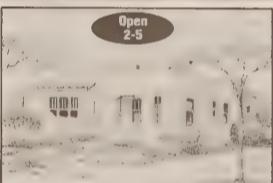
Diane Verducci.....510.486.1495



1621 JOSEPHINE ST., BERKELEY.....\$525,000

New listing. Charming Craftsman or Gourmet
Ghetto. Lovely archit. details & a good flr plan.
Hdwrd firs, frpl. Det gar/wkshp, gardens, patio,
4BR/2BA. Open Sunday.

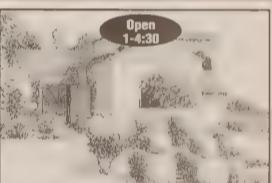
Cheryl Cahn.....510.486.1495



3039 MADELINE.....\$385,000

Charming 2BR/1BA bungalow in the Laurel. Great
floor plan w/built-in office in large eat-in kitchen.
Upgrades & wonderful yard. New paint; move-in
condition! Open Sunday.

Judy Ackerman.....510.339.4700



2737 MONTICELLO.....\$339,000

Maxwell Park Traditional. 2+BR/1.5BA, plus
converted garage; HWF, formal living/dining/
fireplace, updated kitchen, level yard, enclosed
patio, hills view. Wow! Open Sunday.

Victor Ratto.....510.339.4700

FIRST OPEN

2715 IVY DR., OAKLAND.....\$298,000
Sunday 2-4. Cozy & affordable, this Contemporary is on Ivy Hill. 2BR/1BA with an extra 2BR/1BA down. Two car
off-street parking. Great location, great buy. Open Sunday.
Don Kim.....510.486.1495

55 SAMARIA LANE, CRESTMONT.....\$525,000
Sunday 2-5. Entertain in style! Wonderful light-filled home. 3BR/2BA, SF/GG Bridge view, updated kitchen,
luxurious master suite, lovely outdoors

Liat Bostick.....510.339.4700

3039 MADELINE.....\$385,000
Charming 2BR/1BA bungalow in the Laurel. Great
floor plan w/built-in office in large eat-in kitchen.
Upgrades & wonderful yard. New paint; move-in
condition! Open Sunday.

Judy Ackerman.....510.339.4700

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Maxwell Park Traditional. 2+BR/1.5BA, plus
converted garage; HWF, formal living/dining/
fireplace, updated kitchen, level yard, enclosed
patio, hills view. Wow! Open Sunday.

Victor Ratto.....510.339.4700

OPEN SUNDAY

2443 ALIDA STREET.....\$474,000
Sunday 2-5. Lincoln Heights vu home. Lots of charm, light & ez living. HWF, FP, garage, 2+BR/2+BA, family room
accessible to patio & wonderful level-out, level garden.

Rachel Baller.....510.339.4700

3008 DEAKIN ST., BERKELEY.....\$399,000
Sunday 1-4. Darling 2BR/1BA home; wood floors throughout, garage converted to office. Fabulous Berkeley
location. Walk to Whole Foods.

Jillian Shwan.....510.339.4700

3039 MADELINE.....\$385,000
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Upgrades & wonderful yard. New paint; move-in
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Judy Ackerman.....510.339.4700

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Maxwell Park Traditional. 2+BR/1.5BA, plus
converted garage; HWF, formal living/dining/
fireplace, updated kitchen, level yard, enclosed
patio, hills view. Wow! Open Sunday.

Victor Ratto.....510.339.4700

OPEN SUNDAY

6560 ESTATES, PIEDMONT SIDE MONTCLAIR.....\$675,000
Sunday 2-4:30. 4BR/2.5BA. Great space. Rec. room w/wet bar, 2 fireplaces, plank & parquet floors, new paint, kitchen
linoleum

Nancy Dickey, CRS/Becky Andersen.....510.339.4700

4050 HARDING WAY, OAKMERE.....\$549,000
Sunday 1-4. Lovely 3BR/2BA Traditional. French doors, wood floors, enchanting yard w/gazebo, downspout family
room & bath w/separate entrance.

Vicky Faulk.....510.339.4700

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Charming 2BR/1BA bungalow in the Laurel. Great
floor plan w/built-in office in large eat-in kitchen.
Upgrades & wonderful yard. New paint; move-in
condition! Open Sunday.

Judy Ackerman.....510.339.4700

2737 MONTICELLO.....\$339,000
Maxwell Park Traditional. 2+BR/1.5BA, plus
converted garage; HWF, formal living/dining/
fireplace, updated kitchen, level yard, enclosed
patio, hills view. Wow! Open Sunday.

Victor Ratto.....510.339.4700

BY APPOINTMENT

RARE OPPORTUNITY.....\$659,000
Park Hills level home open to terrific garden plus private park. 3BR/2.5BA and family room, 2 fireplaces, 2 car
garage, 2 blocks to Tilden Park.

Diane Verducci.....510.486.1495

55 SAMARIA LANE, CRESTMONT.....\$525,000
Sunday 2-5. Entertain in style! Wonderful light-filled home. 3BR/2BA, SF/GG Bridge view, updated kitchen,
luxurious master suite, lovely outdoors

Liat Bostick.....510.339.4700

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fireplace, updated kitchen, level yard, enclosed
patio, hills view. Wow! Open Sunday.

Victor Ratto.....510.339.4700

BY APPOINTMENT

PEACEFUL & CHARMING.....\$495,000
Gorgeous Craftsman near BART & Monterey Mkt. Fabulous designer kitchen, landscaped garden & separate art
studio. 3BR/1BA.

Diana Kay.....510.486.1495

55 SAMARIA LANE, CRESTMONT.....\$525,000
Sunday 2-5. Entertain in style! Wonderful light-filled home. 3BR/2BA, SF/GG Bridge view, updated kitchen,
luxurious master suite, lovely outdoors

Liat Bostick.....510.339.4700

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patio, hills view. Wow! Open Sunday.

Victor Ratto.....510.339.4700

BY APPOINTMENT

LOFT W/LIGHT.....\$299,000
Spectacular 4 level condo. 1+BR/1BA. Granite countertops & antique flooring in kitchen. Beautiful finishes. Corner
unit in Tannery Lofts complex.

Barbara Marienthal.....510.486.1495

55 SAMARIA LANE, CRESTMONT.....\$525,000
Sunday 2-5. Entertain in style! Wonderful light-filled home. 3BR/2BA, SF/GG Bridge view, updated kitchen,
luxurious master suite, lovely outdoors

Liat Bostick.....510.339.4700

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Judy Ackerman.....510.339.4700

2737 MONTICELLO.....\$339,000
Maxwell Park Traditional. 2+BR/1.5BA, plus
converted garage; HWF, formal living/dining/
fireplace, updated kitchen, level yard, enclosed
patio, hills view. Wow! Open Sunday.

Victor Ratto.....510.339.4700

BUYER NEEDS

In the Berkeley or Oakland Hills, 4BR/2BA home up to \$1,200,000. Please call Josh Whitmer,
510.981.3027.

Piedmont or Montclair area. Minimum 3BR/1BA, some level yard, up to \$1,000,000. Please call Maura Allen,
510.981.3034.

Preferably in Berkeley Hills & Thousand Oaks area. 4BR/2BA home up to \$700,000. Please call Kim &
Barbara Marienthal, 510.981.3036.

Light-filled Contemporary in Berkeley. 3BR/2BA plus garden. Up to \$1,000,000. Please call Nadine Oel,
510.981.3033.

Elmwood/Le Conte School, 3+BR/2BA, sunny yard, fixer o.k. Up to \$700,000. Please call Sarah Shankman,
510.981.3011.

Rockridge or No. Berkeley. 2BR or more, Craftsman or classic bungalow up to \$500,000. Please call Bobbie
Giaratana, 510.981.3031.

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John Deacon
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Weekend OPEN HOMES

Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

www.contracostatimes.com

ALAMEDA

Address & Realty Size Hours Price
 3231 Briggs Ave 1/2/1ba Sun 2-4 \$989,000
 Victor Jim's Property Investment Inc's 510-523-1115
 1338 Bay St 3bd 2-4 \$895,000
 Open Sun, Main Island
 Anna Foy 510-521-5475, Kane & Associates
 1251 Sherman St 3bd 2-4 \$755,000
 Open Sunday
 Janelle Spitz 510-521-1630, Republic Real Estate
 1409 Caroline St 4 - 3 - 8A Sun 2-5 \$699,000
 Realty Advocates Brett Weinstein (510) 428-0757
 681 Pearl 4bd/1ba 2-4 \$695,000
 Open Sunday
 Gallegos & Lindsey, Rem Bung 510-748-1110
 38 Sunnycove 3bd/2.5ba 2-4 \$685,000
 Open Sat & Sun
 Nancy Bianchi 510-814-4819 Harbor Bay Realty
 29 Moore Court 3bd/2.5ba 2-4 \$645,000
 Open Sunday
 Gregg Fujita 510-622-6222 Harbor Bay Realty
 135 Capetown Dr 4bd 2-4 \$643,000
 Open Sat & Sun, HBI
 Marilyn Oliver 510-868-9888, Kane & Associates
 2221 San Jose Ave 3 + BD/2BA 2-4 \$595,000
 Open Sunday
 Centennial Real Estate, Linda Lark 510-522-8749
 1263 Hansen 3bd/2ba 2-4 \$575,000
 Open Sunday
 Shirley McMillin 510-614-4825 Harbor Bay Realty
 353 Channing Way 3bd/2ba 2-4 \$555,000
 Open Sunday
 Anna Foy 510-521-4848 Harbor Bay Realty
 33 Channing Way 3bd/2ba 2-4 \$555,000
 Open Sunday
 Elaine Millin 510-614-4821 Harbor Bay Realty
 1815 Chestnut 2 - BD 2bd 2-4 \$545,000
 Jane Frederick 510-814-4810 Harbor Bay Realty
 27 Elm Springs Ct 3bd 2-4 \$515,000
 Open Sunday, HBI
 Karen Foy 510-736-7051, Kane & Associates
 1423 Lincoln Ave 3bd/1.5ba Sun 2-4 \$495,000
 Assist 2 Sell Howard Kane (510) 530-8330
 2615 Encinal Ave 4bd/2ba 1bd/1ba 2-4 \$475,000
 Open Sunday
 Tina Mestas 510-482-0135, Del Air Realty, Inc.
 1717 St. Charles St 4bd/2ba 2-4 \$455,000
 Open Sunday
 George Williams 510-814-4830 Harbor Bay Realty
 602 Baywood 3bd/2.5ba 2-4 \$449,000
 Open Sat & Sun
 Jan Minton, OMMA Inc 510-522-9074
 3108 El Paseo 4bd/2.5ba 2-4 \$400,000
 Open Sunday
 Gallegos & Lindsey, Signe Nelson 510-748-1103
 1013 Versailles 2bd/1ba 2-4 \$389,000
 Open Sunday
 Bill Douglas 510-814-4830 Harbor Bay Realty
 3435 Tonga 2bd/2ba 2-4 \$385,500
 Open Saturday
 Tom Young 510-814-4841 Harbor Bay Realty
 803 Santa Clara Ave 3bd/2ba 2-4 \$380,000
 Open Sunday
 Paradise Real Estate, Ramon 510-623-0707
 55 Garden Rd 4bd/1.5ba 2-4 \$378,000
 Open Sunday
 Elaine Bullock 510-814-4835 Harbor Bay Realty
 801 San Antonio Ave. 2 bd/1 ba 12-4 \$360,000
 Open Saturday
 Pat Hoffman Real Estate 925-484-5001 or 925-698-4422
 3288 Central Ave. 2bd/1ba 2-4 \$360,000
 Bidley Real Estate, John & Ronda 510-489-1600
 1007 Verdemar 3bd 2-4 \$345,000
 Open Sat & Sun, BFI
 Lillian Silva 510-865-5584; Linn Sato 510-521-5475, Kane & Associates
 2834 Adams St 2bd 2-4 \$339,000
 Open Sunday, Main Island
 Karen Kellener 510-522-4656, Kane & Associates
 1170 9th St #27 1bd/1ba 2-4 \$235,000
 Open Sunday
 Fred Christensen 510-814-4811 Harbor Bay Realty
 523 Central Av. 3bd/1ba 2-4 \$365,000
 Open Sunday
 Prudential, Jorge Jimenez 510-869-5885

ALBANY

Address & Realty Size Hours Price
 609 Pomona Ave 4bd/2ba Sun 2-4 \$595,000
 Bill and Tracy, Berkley Hills Realty, 510-524-9888 x33
 514 Masonic 4bd/2ba Sun 2-4 \$405,000
 North Branch, Berkley Hills Realty, 510-524-9888 x25
 1105 Neilson St. 2bd/1ba 2-4 \$475,000
 Koth Tower 510-339-8900 x254 Century 21 Heritage R.E.
 819 Key Route Blvd 2bd/1ba Sun 2-4 \$370,000
 Bill and Tracy, Berkley Hills Realty, 510-524-9888 x33

BERKELEY

Address & Realty Size Hours Price
 85 Gravatt Dr 2-4 \$2,250,000
 Berkley The Grubb Co. Debra J. Dryden (510) 339-0400
 34 Panoramic Way 7bd/4ba 1-3-20 \$1,295,000
 OPEN SUNDAY, Jerry Moriarty 925/785-5445 C21 Heritage R.E.
 2539-2541 Hilgard Ave 2bd/2ba Sun 2-4 \$800,000
 Berkley The Grubb Co. Tricia Swift (510) 339-0400
 2947 Elmwood Ct 3bd/2ba Sun 2-4 \$695,000
 Berkley The Grubb Co. Bebe McRae (510) 339-0400
 1711 Francisco 4 - 1 - 2bd Sun 2-5 \$685,000
 Rayne Palmer, Prudential, 510-526-5143
 775 Spruce St 3bd/2ba Sun 2-5 \$611,000
 RED OAK, 510-280-2138, Diane
 1728 6th St 2bd/2ba Sun 2-4 \$695,000
 Berkeley Pacific Union Nancy Neman (510) 338-1373
 1711 Francisco 3bd/2ba Sun 2-4 \$529,000
 RED OAK, 510-280-2148, Francke
 2430 8th St 1 - 2bd Sun 2-4 \$498,000
 II. Plaider, Prudential, 510-845-4021
 1372 Hopkins St 2bd/2ba Sun 2-4 \$447,000
 Wells & Bennett Stan Hammond (510) 531-7000 x246
 1431 Action Crescent 3bd/2ba Sun 2-4 \$418,000
 Ken Katz, Marvin Gardens, 510-527-2700 x40
 1737 Lincoln St 3bd/2ba Sun 2-5 \$399,000
 Michael Friedman, Prudential, 510-845-0200
 1517 8th @ Cedar 3bd/1ba Sun 2-4 \$399,000
 Warren Lai, Berkeley Hills Realty, 510-524-9888 x14
 1519 Oxford #J 2bd/1.5 Sun 2-4 \$389,000
 Miles Trilling, Berkley Hills, 510-524-9888 x18
 3008 Deakin St 2bd/1ba 1-4 \$339,000
 Jillian Strawn (510) 339-4700
 1176 Euclid #2 1/1 - loft Sun 1-4 \$299,000
 RED OAK, 510-280-2105, Keith

BYRON

Address & Realty Size Hours Price
 15057 Bay Hwy 2 - BD/1ba \$210,000 1-5
 Open Saturday
 Vincent San Nicolas, Alameda Realty (510) 910-5204

DANVILLE

Address & Realty Size Hours Price
 175 Cameo Dr 3.5bd 2.5ba Sun 2-4 \$310,000
 Denise Saville 510-814-4071 Harbor Bay Realty

EL CERRITO

Address & Realty Size Hours Price
 5612 Skyline Blvd 4bd/3ba Sun 2-4 \$2,300,000
 Oakland Hills The Grubb Co. Steve Michaelis (510) 339-0400

EL CERRITO

Address & Realty Size Hours Price
 5612 Skyline Blvd 4bd/3ba Sun 2-4 \$2,300,000
 Oakland Hills The Grubb Co. Jill Carrigan (510) 339-0400

EL CERRITO

Address & Realty Size Hours Price
 5612 Skyline Blvd 4bd/3ba Sun 2-4 \$2,300,000
 Oakland Hills The Grubb Co. Jill Carrigan (510) 339-0400

EL SOBRANTE

Address & Realty Size Hours Price
 3802 Wesley Way 4bd/2ba Sun 1-4 \$375,000
 Incr Ascrt, Security Pacific, 510-273-5164

KENSINGTON

Address & Realty Size Hours Price
 262-264 Santa Rosa Ave 4bd/2ba Sun 2-4 \$786,000
 Wells & Bennett, Kevin P. Kennedy (510) 531-7000 x224

LAFAYETTE

Address & Realty Size Hours Price
 3340 Mary's Rd 4 - 2bd Sun 1-4 \$928,000
 George Miller, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290

LIVERMORE

Address & Realty Size Hours Price
 1207 Killdeer St 3 + BD/2BA \$468,000 14
 Open Sunday
 Vincent San Nicolas, Alameda Realty (510) 810-5204

Address & Realty Size Hours Price

Address & Realty Size

Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B11

Open Sunday, April 14, 1-4pm



6235 Castle Drive, Montclair

Situated prominently on nearly a 1/2 acre lot, this French Normandy "manor house" has architectural significance. The spaces are dramatic with character commensurate with the 1938 era. Featured are soaring ceilings, gorgeous sun filled windows, lovely hardwood floors, bay views, custom kitchen, "ballroom", turret room and each bedroom has its own private bath.

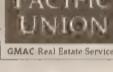
The Piedmont Pines location is close to parks and trails.

- 4 bedrooms/5 baths • Formal dining room • Turret room/den
- "Ballroom" • 3 fireplaces • Beautiful gardens, patios and terraces

Offered at \$1,295,000

Donna Costella

Senior Sales Consultant. (510) 338-1355



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SOLD... Significantly Above Asking Price!

Our Rockridge listing received an astonishing 4,257 property views from our Realtor.com marketing... just one of the reasons we sold this wonderful Craftsman home for significantly above the asking price!

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Montclair



Open Sunday 4/14

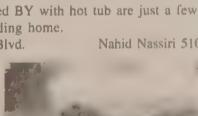


PRICE REDUCTION! \$790,000
Beautiful Montclair retreat. 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath with huge garage. Fabulous views from all angles, remodeled throughout. Located on large lot at Redwood Regional Park. 6000 Grizzly Peak Blvd. Laurel Strand 510-339-8400



CRAFTSMAN CROWN JEWEL \$619,000
New listing! Just a short walk to shops, restaurants, and Express buses to San Francisco, this home maintains all of traditional craftsman details after being gorgeously remodeled and updated. An open central entry hall, FDR, large LR with FP and sunroom, eat-in kitchen, and completely fenced BY with hot tub are just a few features of this outstanding home.

4414 Park Blvd. Nahid Nassiri 510-339-8400



TRANQUILITY ABOUNDS! \$599,000
With this 2+2 Bedroom, 2 Bath updated Montclair home. Huge, level yard features year round creek, fruit trees, and mature landscaping. 110 Glenwood Glade Cece Rossia 510-339-4000

By Appointment

RUBY HILL, MASTERPIECE \$2,450,000

On the 15th fairway sits this 16 month new 5 bedroom, 5 1/2 bath, 6,076 sq. ft. "one of a kind" residence. Dressed in the finest designer materials of travertine marble, slab granite and Brazilian cherry wood, this decorator showplace with incredible kitchen, media room and separate den spells: DREAM HOME.

Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200



DESIRABLE WESTSIDE ALAMO \$1,895,000

5 Bedrooms, 3 full Baths. Beautiful, traditional home includes backyard with pool and spa plus side yard for children's play area or possible sport court. Gorgeous landscaping and many custom features throughout.

Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

POOL AND VIEWS OF ALAMO \$1,050,000

Great entertainer's home with a fantastic patio overlooking Las Trampas views. Pool and play structure in backyard. Loads of storage, tandem garage fits 3+ cars. Hardwood floors and French doors throughout this lovely home.

Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

GATED \$829,000

Backs to open space, 4 huge bedrooms, upgraded kitchen, master bedroom with panoramic views, raised deck with spa for your fussiest buyers.

Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

AWESOME ADOBE \$750,000

Charming and authentic adobe constructed home with a separate in-law residence on a premium, level .92 acre lot with walking distance to town. This great property has wonderful curb appeal, numerous mature trees and is legal for up to 2 horses.

Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

By Appointment

THE CHARM OF OLD DIABLO \$738,950

Overlooking the rolling lawns of the Diablo Country Club, an exquisite 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath home that embodies a lifestyle of elegance, spacious comfortable living and views of Mt. Diablo. A well-appointed kitchen with custom cherry cabinets, granite counters, gas cooktop and views of old oaks.

Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

ON THE GOLF COURSE \$599,950

Nestled on the 12th fairway is this completely remodeled showplace. From the front porch to the backyard pond, no detail has been overlooked. Hardwood floors, sky-lights, new windows, bright and open. Detached workshop. Instantly appealing!

Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

COZY WESTSIDE RETREAT \$530,000

4 Bedrooms, 2 full baths, over .25 acre lot. Walking distance to downtown, near Iron Horse Trail. Newer heater, air-conditioner and roof. Beautiful landscaped backyard with pool and waterfall. Won't last at this price!

Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

FANTASTIC DOWNTOWN LOCATION \$459,950

Walk to downtown from this upscale townhome. 3 Bed/2.5 Bath, 1808 square feet. Fantastic floor plan features gourmet kitchen, sunny bay window, breakfast nook, formal dining, private backyard/patio. Master suite with volume ceilings, 3 closets and double sink vanity.

Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

By Appointment

Income Property



INcredible Investment Property

Do not disturb tenants. Front building is 4 2 bed/bath. Back building is 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Hardwood in most units. No open house. Call Noni for more info.

Noni Robinson 510-339-

Lots and Land

GENTLE UPSLOPE IN MONTCLAIR

Walk to Village shops. Located in area with exp. homes. Good value. Too good to pass up!

Ken Nwokedi 510-339-

OVERWHELMED BY THE MARKET?

Building that special home just got easier. Great Montclair with plans & survey completed.

Maria Sinclair 510-339-

LEVEL LOT-GREAT SPACE

Location convenient to shopping, freeway & mass transit. Zoned commercial & residential-perfect mixed income property.

www.PatriciaBennett.com 510-339-

GREAT "COUNTRY" SETTING LOT

Don't miss this awaited opportunity to build a dream "near the top" of Broadway Terrace-away from Seller has relocated- says "Just bring a good offer!"

Rosemary Greene 510-339-

PIEDMONT PINES

Upslope lot approximately 7,152 sq.ft. Build your home in this wonderful area close to Montclair Village.

Nahid Nassiri 510-339-

Our office offers RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, AND SERVICES - contact Anna Jensen at 510-339-1600 or 510-339-1600

New Listing

Spectacular Traditional

1133 Estates Drive, Lafayette

Sitting on 1+ acres with wonderful views of hills and canyon, this home has 4 large bedrooms, 3.5 baths, plus study. Huge eat-in kitchen with adjoining family room with fireplace. Pool and pool house, large fenced yard, spacious cedar decks. Beautifully detailed home.

\$2,895,000

Call to Preview



JERILYN BABINGTON
COLDWELL BANKER
(510) 547-1615 residence
(510) 421-3500 mobile



★ ★ NEW GLENVIEW LISTING ★ ★
★ ★ Open House - Sunday, April 14, 2002 1-5 ★



Beautiful Craftsman Bungalow in Glenview

Come visit this fabulous Craftsman home and you won't be disappointed. From the moment you drive up you will be drawn in by the inviting front porch and classic craftsman lines. As you enter home, you are dazzled by the warm wood floors, wonderful designer colors, wood burning fireplace, traditional architectural detailing, built-in cabinets, and beautiful woodwork. This spacious home features 3 sunny bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. The formal rooms flow nicely and draw the visitor to the back deck, which is a perfect place to enjoy the backyard. The master bedroom/bath is secluded in back of the home. This home has been well maintained and is in excellent condition, including many new systems. There is a sunny back yard and a huge unfinished basement, that could be a perfect rec room, shop, or converted to a home office, or? This home is located in Glenview on a quiet tree-lined street. Glenview is close to everything, including an express bus to SF, Shops and Restaurants, and Great Coffee.

Ron Kriss, Partner
547-5970 ronkriss@jps.net

Online Tour @ www.3961Greenwood.com

3961 Greenwood

Offered \$559,000
Oakland



JASCO

SPORTS

• Friday, April 12, 2002 •

Section C

Inside Horowitz, Rowbury 'Duke' it out at Stanford [C2]

Inside 'Lanes' merges issues of race, class effectively [C3]

Big dogs run at Oak relays — Duffy takes 3,200 meters

By Mike McGreehan

STAFF WRITER

A prestigious track and field meet such as the 23rd annual Oakland Invitational Relays always is a major story in itself, particularly as it occurs in such a historic site as Cal's Edwards Stadium.

Of course, track and field involves many vignettes. And there were a number of interesting ones on Saturday.

St. Mary's High School senior Bridget Duffy won the girls 3,200 quite comfortably in 11:05.85, almost seven full seconds faster than second-place finisher Jessie Baldwin (11:12.68) of Milpitas High.

Duffy broke into the lead from the start and set the early pace. Midway through the race, however,

ever, she dropped behind, but never lost sight of the leader. Duffy retook the lead and displayed a strong kick the last two laps.

"I wasn't feeling too good before I started (the race)," said Duffy, who committed to Cal earlier in the week. "I just tried to hang in there and have good closing laps."

At Cal, Duffy will see plenty of Edwards Stadium.

I'm excited about it, she said. "I love this place."

Solomon Welch, Duffy's teammate at St. Mary's, won two events. Welch took first place in the boys long jump (22 feet, 8 1/4 inches) and triple jump (47-8 1/4).

Bishop O'Dowd's Inman Breaux did well in both events, too, placing second in the long

jump (21-7 1/4) and third in the triple jump (44-9 1/4).

As expected, Kamaiya Warren of St. Mary's won the girls discus with a toss of 150-5. O'Dowd's Allyson Criner was third at 133-9.

Warren also won the shot put with an effort of 44-5 1/4. O'Dowd's Petulisa Mauisia placed sixth at 38-1 1/4.

Overall, St. Mary's won the girls competition with 88 points. James Logan finished second with 72, followed by Merrill-West with 55, O'Dowd with 47 and Holy Names with 38.

Bellarmine-San Jose took the boys title with 69 points. Logan was second here, too, with a score of 64.

See TRACK, Page C2



TUE NAM TON/STAFF

ST. MARY'S RUNNER STEVE MURPHY was the second leg on the Panthers' medley relay team. With Ryan Koogler, Omar Flood and Rudy Vasquez, Murphy and the Panthers placed second to Vallejo in 3 minutes, 41.47 seconds.

Berkeley bumped from 1st place

Alameda freshman Pereira hurls 4-hitter, tops Warner in pitcher's duel

By Bill Kruissink

STAFF WRITER

Saying she "likes to finish what she starts," Alameda pitcher Sierra Pereira went the distance against Berkeley, hurling her team to a 3-0 win in Alameda.

In tossing her first complete game of the season, Pereira, a freshman left-hander, yielded just four hits, walked one and struck out 13 to earn the victory.

The win raised Alameda to 3-9 in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League (10-5 overall), while dropping Berkeley to 6-5, 2-1 ACCAL. While the Hornets knocked the Yellow Jackets out of a first-place tie, they still have company. El Cerrito also improved to 3-0 in league with a 12-7 win over Richmond.

"I really wanted to finish the game," Pereira said. "My defense was there and the offense was (delivering)."

Alameda's defense was especially effective. Catcher Jenny Archuleta threw out two Yellow Jackets attempting to steal second and second baseman Nancy Finney short-hopped a grounder then flipped to shortstop Julie Stauder at second for a big putout in the fourth. In the fifth inning, Alameda caught a runner off third following an infield error.

Alameda needed all the good fielding plays it could get to top Berkeley. The Yellow Jackets outlasted the Hornets 4-3, but stranded six runners.

Then too, the 'Jackets faced one tough pitcher.

"It was pretty educational," Berkeley coach Lisa Lancin said. "We had some good competition in the preseason, but this was the best pitching we've seen. I think



TUE NAM TON/STAFF

BERKELEY'S JOE WARNER had her riser working against Alameda, striking out eight. Unfortunately, the Yellow Jackets faced left-hander Sierra Pereira, who fanned 13. Playing at Alameda on April 10, Berkeley fell to the Hornets 3-0.

our girls learned you can't be intimidated by a fast pitcher — you just have to get more excited."

Alameda got excited first when, with two outs in the bottom of the third, Finney reached on an infield error. Singles by Allie Musso and Meghan Pipkin (2-for-3 with a run scored and an RBI) gave the Hornets a 2-0 edge.

Alameda scored a final unearned run in the sixth. In between the third and sixth, Berkeley rapped out three hits and had runners in scoring position four times.

Caitlin Drulis got the Yellow Jacket's first hit off Pereira, singling up the middle to lead off the second. She stole second, but failed to get further when Pereira fanned the next three Yellow Jacket batters.

In the fourth, Bailey Holloway reached on an Alameda error, but was gunned out attempting to steal. Berkeley's next hitter, Joe Warner, singled along the third-base line, but was erased when Drulis sent a sharp grounder to Finney, setting up the force at

second.

And so it went. Berkeley put a total of three batters aboard in the fifth, losing one in a steal attempt and leaving Allani Kelly, who had walked, at second and Zoe Hitchner, who'd reached on an error, at first.

In the sixth, Holloway singled to lead things off and advanced to third on an infield error off the bat of Drulis. Thinking Drulis might steal, Alameda threw down to second, hoping to catch Holloway sneaking home. It worked, Holloway losing her footing on the loose gravel between third and home.

In all, Berkeley put 10 batters on base, while Alameda had just six base runners.

Warner was sharp in the circle, yielding just three hits over six innings. Her rise ball was very effective, leading to eight strikeouts. She walked none and finished having delivered just 77 pitches.

In winning the game, Pereira served up 101 pitches in her seven innings of work.

Holy Names 8, Albany 3

OK, the Cougars didn't ring up a win. But they did make a statement at Memorial Field.

Hitting against Laura Ferreira, one of the top pitchers in East Bay, the Cougars (2-8, 1-4 BSAL) managed to rap out four hits, including doubles by Krislyn Patterson, Elizabeth Ali and Danielle Moore. In fact, Albany (2-8, 1-4 BSAL) in the early going.

With starter Sydney McIver blanking the Monarchs through two innings, the Cougars scored once in the bottom of the first on doubles by Patterson and Ali. Albany made it 2-0 in the second when Lisa Connolly was hit by a pitch and advanced around to score for 2-0.

But the Monarchs pushed three runs across in the top of the third, then added four more runs in the fifth to put the win in the book.

Ferreira wound up with 17 strikeouts. The Fresno State

See SOFTBALL, Page C2

SPORTS BRIEFS

Soccer tryouts

The Alameda-Contra Costa Youth Soccer League Mavericks are holding tryouts for the fall season. Tryouts will be for Class I and III girls and Class I boys. Players are advised to arrive 30 minutes in advance for check-in. Expect each tryout to last two hours.

Girls tryouts

(all times subject to change)

- Under-15 — April 14, Anderson 2, 2 p.m.; April 21, Anderson 1, 1 p.m.; April 28, Gabe West, 3 p.m.
- Under-16 — April 14, Anderson 1, 2 p.m.; April 21, Fielding West, noon; April 28, Anderson 2, 3 p.m.
- Under-17 — April 14, Fielding West, 2 p.m.; April 28, Fielding West, 2 p.m.
- Under-18/19 — April 14, Anderson 2, 4 p.m.; April 21, Gabe West 1 p.m.; April 28, Fielding West, 10 a.m.

Boys tryouts

(all times subject to change)

- Under-15 — April 14, Gabe West, 1 p.m.; April 21, Fielding West, 10 a.m.; April 28, Anderson 1, 1 p.m.
- Under-16 — April 14, Gabe West; April 21, Gabe East; April 28, Anderson 1 (all times 3 p.m.).
- Under-17 — April 14, Anderson, noon, April 21, Anderson, 1 p.m.; April 28, Gabe West, 1 p.m.
- Under-18/19 — April 14, Anderson 1, noon; April 21, Gabe West 3 p.m.; April 28, Fielding West, noon.

Alameda-Contra Costa Youth Soccer League Class III boys teams are being formed by the following clubs: Albany/Berkeley (tel. 848-1339), San Pablo (223-8859), Richmond (620-0698), El Cerrito (869-KICK) and Mersey (524-4625). Please contact these clubs directly or log on to www.accys.org for tryout schedules.

The Walnut Creek Soccer Club Strikers, an under-17 girls premier team, will hold tryouts from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Ultra-Max Field in Concord on Sunday, April 14, and from 4-6:30 p.m. at El Divisadero Park in Walnut Creek on Tuesday, April 16. The Strikers are the current California Youth Soccer Association-North Premier League champion. They are coached by former St. Mary's College assistant Tom Ginocchio. For more information, call Ginocchio at 925-937-4466. Or check out the club Web site at www.WSCS.org.

The Bay Oaks Soccer Club is conducting tryouts for its fall season. Dates, times and locations are subject to change, so please consult www.baoaks.net or call 510-567-1177 before the pub-

lished tryout date for any changes. Players must wear shin guards should bring one white shirt and one dark shirt. Players should contact the coach if they cannot attend a tryout.

Girls tentative schedules are as follows:

- Under-15 — April 15, Alameda Point 1, 6-8 p.m.; April 17, Alameda Point 1, 6-8 p.m.
- Under-16 — April 16, Alameda Point 1, 5-7 p.m.; April 18, Alameda Point 1, 5-7 p.m.

Boys tentative schedules are as follows:

- Under-17 — April 15, Alameda Point 2, 5-7 p.m.; April 17, Alameda Point 2, 5-7 p.m.
- Under-18/19 — April 16, Alameda Point 2, 5-7 p.m.; April 18, Alameda Point 2, 5-7 p.m.

The Rockridge Soccer Club will hold tryouts for its Class III Sting teams at Alameda Point on Sunday, April 21 and Sunday, April 28.

Tryouts for April 21 are as follows:

- Under-14 girls — 9 a.m.-noon (Jeff Blair, coach)
- Under-14 boys — 12:30-3:30 p.m. (John Gourhan, coach)
- Under-16 boys — 3:30-6:30 p.m. (Gerard Brogan, coach)
- Under-19 girls — 3:30-6:30 p.m. (Blaise Curet, coach)

Tryouts for April 28 are as follows:

- Under-19 boys (second-year team) — 9 a.m.-noon (Adam Oliveri, coach)
- Under-12 boys — 12:30-3:30 p.m. (Ali Belkacem, coach)
- Under-12 girls — 3:30-6:30 p.m. (Sussi Voak, coach)
- Under-19 boys (first-year team) — 3:30-6:30 p.m. (Carlos Quezada, coach)

Players are asked to arrive at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start. Proceed to the field area, sign in, and sign the medical release form. Bring appropriate soccer gear and plenty of water.

Basketball

The Oakland Neighborhood Basketball League will celebrate its 30th year of summer play this year. ONBL provides Bay Area youths 8-18 a chance to participate in a very competitive basketball league. Registration deadline is June 7 with league play starting June 24.

Registration is available at the City of Oakland Parks and Recreation Department office (1520 Lakeside Drive). Entries also are available online at www.sportability.com.

See BRIEFS, Page C2

On Deck

Baseball

Piedmont at Albany, today at 3:30 p.m. — Though Salesian (4-1 BSAL) suffered its first loss in league play and dropped into a tie for first place with St. Mary's, the Chieftains still look to be the power in the BSAL. So every win the Cougars (3-1 BSAL, 8-3 overall) can pick up is important.

Sealing the Highlanders would be a big step. The Scots (9-2, 2-1) will bring four powerful pitchers to Cougar Field and, with Albany, need every win they can get to stay competitive against Salesian.

Encinal at Berkeley, 3:30 p.m. April 17 — If Encinal defeats Island-rival

Alameda and Berkeley tops winless Hercules today, the two will head to this confrontation sporting identical 4-0 records in league.

While the Jets had a lackluster non-league season (2-8), they are nonetheless the defending North Coast Section 2A East Bay champs. But should the Yellow Jackets get past the Jets, the door will be wide open for an ACCAL title. The Jackets defeated Pinole Valley and play the only other undefeated team in the league, El Cerrito (10-3, 3-0), on April 19.

Softball

El Cerrito at Alameda, 3:30 p.m. April 17 — This matchup could be for

the title. Both clubs end the week as the only remaining undefeated teams in the league with 3-0 records.

The Gauchos are hot, running their overall record to 7-3. Last spring, the team won just two games all season.

But the squad's big challenges are just on the horizon — games against Pinole Valley and Berkeley, as well as Alameda.

The Hornets are the two-time defending league champs and have already defeated Pinole and Berkeley once. Expect Alameda to send freshman standout Sierra Pereira to the circle to face the only other undefeated team in the league.

Athletes of the week

Danielle Moore, Krylynn Patterson and Elizabeth Ali, Albany softball — The trio accomplished the near impossible, drilling doubles against Holy Names' flame-throwing pitcher Laura Ferreira. Though the Cougars lost the game 8-3, Moore, who also pitched all 3-1/3 innings, Patterson and Ali showed they have no fear when facing the fastest arm in the league.

Joe Storno, St. Mary's baseball — Storno hurled the Panthers past Salesian and into first place in the BSAL. He struck out eight in allowing just three hits.

Brian Haller, St. Mary's golf — Haller led the Panthers past BSAL op-

ponents Piedmont and St. Joseph this past week, firing a pair of 36s, both at Miramar Golf Course. St. Mary's (6-0) is the standings.

Greg Minix and Ryan De La Rosa, El Cerrito baseball — the pair each ripped three hits with a double as the Gauchos rolled past Richmond 17-0 and into a three-way tie for first place in the ACCAL.

Armen Zakarian and Teddy Firestone, El Cerrito volleyball — Zakarian had 14 kills, Firestone 11 as the Gauchos downed Berkeley 3-0. The win landed El Cerrito (2-1) in a tie for first place in the ACCAL with Richmond (3-1).

Quotes of the week

"I wasn't feeling too good before I started (the race). I just tried to hang in there and have good closing laps."

— St. Mary's distance runner Bridget Duffy after winning the 3,200-meter race at the Oakland Invitational Relays. Duffy, who committed to Cal this past week, won the race by seven seconds.

"It was pretty educational. We had some good competition in the preseason, but this was the best pitching we've seen. I think our girls learned you can't be intimidated by a fast pitcher — you just have to get more excited."

— Berkeley softball coach Lisa Lancin after the Yellow Jackets were shut out by Alameda left-hander Sierra Pereira.

Horowitz, Rowbury 'Duke' it out at Stanford Invitational

By Mike McGreehan
STAFF WRITER

Clara Horowitz's running exploits have generated news since the start of her freshman year at the Head-Royce School nearly four years ago. In that time, Horowitz has accomplished much. In the fall, she won her third consecutive North Coast Section Division V cross country championship. She then went on to capture her third straight state title, too.

For the past couple years, Horowitz — a Berkeley resident bound for Duke University in the fall — has looked to make her mark in track distance events, too.

And she has done well.

Horowitz was especially sharp at the Stanford Invitational on March 29 as she took a close second in the 3000-meter race to Shannon Rowbury of Sacred Heart Cathedral-San Francisco.

Rowbury won the event in 9 minutes, 38.41 seconds. Horowitz followed in 9:41.9.

"If it had been a 3,200 (a more customary distance for Horowitz), the race would have finished in 10.20," Horowitz said.

In a figurative sense, Horowitz and Rowbury "Duked" it out at Stanford, as Rowbury also will head to Duke in the fall. But in a very real sense, though, the two seniors created a most exciting race.

Horowitz broke free from the pack with about two laps to go, but Rowbury soon followed. Rowbury eventually passed Horowitz with about a quarter-lap to go. For those in attendance, the two future Blue Devils created a most memorable finish.

"It was really exciting — I ran about a 20-second PR," Horowitz said. "Even though I got out-kicked at the end, tactically, it was one of the best races I ever ran. The race gave me a lot of confidence. I really felt great out there. I felt like I was flowing well."

Looking ahead

With the Stanford Invitational behind her, Horowitz looked ahead to the Arcadia Invitational, coming up this Friday and Saturday. Horowitz



DARREN ANTONOVICH/STAFF

CLARA HOROWITZ finished just behind Shannon Rowbury at the Stanford Invitational on March 29. Both Horowitz, who hails from Berkeley, and Rowbury are headed to Duke University next fall.

will run the 1,600 at Arcadia.

This past Saturday, Horowitz stopped for a tune-up of sorts when she ran the 800 at the Oakland Invitational Relays at Cal's Edwards Stadium.

Horowitz did not expect to win the race, as she is not accustomed to competing at such a relatively short distance.

And the race pretty much went as expected, too, as Horowitz took sixth place in 2:17.03.

"I placed where I thought I would," she said. "I was kind of hoping for a better time, though."

Horowitz said the race started slowly — of course, the Oakland Invitational 800 wasn't her main focus, either. The purpose of the race, again, was to prepare for Arcadia.

"(Arcadia) is my first (outdoor) mile," she said Saturday. "So, it's something I've been waiting for this entire season. Now

it's only a week away."

Horowitz hopes that competing at disparate distances the past two weekends will better prepare her for Arcadia.

"Last week, I ran 3,000 to get strength, and to prove to myself that I could run two miles," she said. "But because I've been running so many 3,200s this year, my coaches thought it would be a good idea to run an 800. I want to be ready for any pace. I want to be ready for a fast pace and I think I am."

If Horowitz can run as well as she did at Stanford — or in many of her earlier races, for that matter — Arcadia promises to become another memorable event in her most successful prep career.

Posimel

UNDER THE ROOF: On March 10, Horowitz finished third in the mile run at the Nike Indoor Classic in Landover, Md.

Horowitz ran a 4:57.5.

"It was an indoor PR for me," she said. "The race was a lot of fun, a good experience."

Molly Huddle, a sophomore from Elmsford, N.Y., placed first in 4:46.4, a national indoor record for a sophomore runner. Huddle surpassed the previous sophomore record held by Julia Stamps of Santa Rosa High School. Stamps ran 4:46.73 in 1995. Huddle also surpassed the meet record set in 2000 by Alejandra Barrientos of San Lorenzo Valley-Felton (4:48.96).

Senior Nikki Bohnsack of Rockford, Mich., was a distant second to Huddle at 4:57.1.

AN INTERESTING EVENT: In addition to the records previously held by Stamps and Barrientos, it is interesting to note that the freshman national record for the girls indoor mile still belongs to Mary Decker, who ran 4:40.1 in 1973.

The overall national high school record for the event still belongs to Debbie Head, who covered the distance in 4:38.5 on March 17, 1972. Head was a junior at Neff-La Mirada at the time.

THE RIVERS

SACRAMENTO RIVER, RED-

DING TO ANDERSON: The trout fishing has been up and down lately. The river is at 4,000 cfs and steady. There have been some 10-20 fish days, but all are catch and release. The water is low and clear and there's a good bug hatch when the weather is warm. Anglers have been fishing with spin gear, flatfish and glo-bugs. Fly fishing has been most productive when using nymphs and fox poops No. 14.

THE DELTA

Audie Urbano of Hap's Bait and Tackle in Rio Vista said the striped run finally is taking off on both sides of the Delta. An increasing number of striped bass are moving toward the north area. Anglers are having success using blood worms, shad and sardines. Trolling with broken-backed lures tossing Rat-L-Traps along the west bank of Decker Island or the Old Sacramento River at Long Island and the Isleton Bridge are productive as well.

Sturgeon fishing continues to be excellent this week, as anglers are taking some up to 103 pounds by soaking grass shrimp, ghost shrimp and pile worms. Anglers are hooking keeper fish during the change of tides in Decker, Power Lines and Sherman.

Cache Slough and the Rio Vista Bridge also have been hot. The catch of the week was from Nevada's Paul Kirkpatrick, who hooked a 103-pound sturgeon on ghost shrimp at Collinsville. The biggest sturgeon was a 37-pounder caught using Rat-L-Traps at Antioch.

Several stripers and sturgeon were brought into Gotch's Bait in Antioch.

Cliff Rimmer of Antioch caught a 42-pound striped on grass shrimp at Decker Island, Mary Han of Milpitas caught a 6-pound striped on shad at Sherman Island, Dave Palmer of Antioch.

Wednesday's results

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El Cerrito 12, Richmond 7

Pinole Valley 11, Encinal 1

Hercules 10, De Anza 5

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Arts



BILL MANN

Multimedia Notes

No place like 'Homebody' at Berkeley Rep

HOMEBODY/KABUL, "Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, begins previews of its West Coast premiere at 8 p.m. April 19 on Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. It opens April 24. Originally scheduled to close June 9, the production, under the direction of Tony Taccone, the Rep's artistic director, has already been extended through June 23.

Written and selected to be a part of the Rep's 2001-02 season long before the events of Sept. 11, "Homebody/Kabul" has become one of the most talked about plays in recent years.

Set in August 1998, when Afghanistan was the epitome of a vaguely imagined moonscape on the opposite side of the globe to most Americans, this is a mystery play of sorts.

The Homebody, played by Michelle Morain, is a bored, intellectual British woman who tells of her fascination with Afghanistan in an opening monologue. She had learned about the place through an encounter with an Afghan refugee shopkeeper and an outdated travel book. Later, we learn that she has disappeared in Afghanistan. The play follows her husband and daughter's attempts to find her.

Is she dead? Has she married an Afghan man and chosen to live the sequestered life of a Muslim woman. Conflicting stories tell of both. Trying to unravel the mystery, the daughter Priscilla (Heidi Dippold, making her Rep debut) ventures into the Taliban-controlled streets of Kabul in search of a mysterious Afghan woman who is the first wife of the Homebody's alleged new husband.

Single tickets range from \$38 to \$54, depending on the day of the week. Group discounts are also available, as well as senior and student half-price "rush" tickets, if any, available 30 minutes before curtain time at the door. Twenty half-price "HotTix" go on sale at noon at the box office, cash only, Tuesdays through Fridays for that evening's performance. Berkeley Rep also offers \$16 tickets for anybody under age 30 with valid ID, subject to availability and not good on Saturday nights. Call 510-647-2949 or toll-free at 888-4BRTTix. Additional information and on-line ticketing is available at www.berkeleyrep.org.

'LINE' UP IN ALAMEDA:



MICHELLE MORAIN (left) and Heidi Dippold in the West Coast premiere of Tony Kushner's "Homebody/Kabul" opening April 24 at the Berkeley Rep Theatre.



JACK TUCKER

Community Theater

Alameda is jumping with big-time musical auditions next week. In addition to Altarena's casting of "Carnival" on Monday and Tuesday at 7 p.m., mentioned here last week, Alameda Civic Light Opera starts casting "A Chorus Line"

at 7 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Hopefuls for "Carnival" will be strutting their stuff at the arena playhouse, 1409 High Street. Those aiming for "A Chorus Line" — and there's no reason actors can't show up for both — will be auditioned at the Kofman Auditorium, 2200 Central Ave. in downtown Alameda between Oak and Walnut streets. Callbacks for "Line" will follow on April 20 at 10 a.m.

Of course, those lucky — and talented — enough to be cast in BOTH shows will have

to make a choice, unless they are exceedingly swift on their feet. The two runs don't overlap. "Carnival" ends on June 30. "A Chorus Line" opens July 12 and runs weekends through July 28. But juggling two rehearsal schedules would be a bear, big-time.

Is there a gentler way of conveying the traditional theatrical best wishes to the whole gang en masse without saying — Ugh! — break all of your legs? Sounds awful, literally and figuratively. Help!

See TUCKER, Page C5

'Lanes' merges issues of race, class effectively

By Mary F. Pois

STAFF WRITER

From its ad campaign, "Changing Lanes" looks like a conventional bore: Samuel L. Jackson and Ben Affleck going mano a mano in the streets of New York. Car crashes. Men who can be paid to "fix" things. A race against time.

Yet it's one of the least conventional big Hollywood movies to come along this year, a film that dares to probe, intelligently, into some of those most essential, difficult American issues: race and class. It's also dark — so dark that even Ben Affleck's omnipresent grin has been chased away.

Because of the way it deals with escalating rage, "Changing Lanes" is likely to be compared to Michael Douglas' ugly 1993 movie "Falling Down," but thankfully, it's far more complex, simultaneously laying bare the moral lapses of the privileged and the disgruntled. It's also blissfully devoid of SWAT teams. "Changing Lanes" is imperfect, but ignore those overwrought ads and give it a chance.

Vapid, smug corporate lawyer Gavin Banek (Affleck) gets into a fender-bender with struggling insurance salesman Doyle Gipson (Jackson) on New York's busy FDR Drive during morning rush hour. It's Good Friday and both men are due in court. Gavin is supposed to be presenting irreplaceable papers proving his law firm didn't trick a client out of his money. Doyle, a recovering alcoholic, has one last chance to persuade a judge he's worthy of sharing custody of his two young sons with his angry ex-wife (Kim Staunton). He's armed with good news; he's just been



COLLISION COURSE: Ben Affleck and Samuel L. Jackson begin feuding after an automobile accident in "Changing Lanes."

REVIEW

■ WHAT: "Changing Lanes"

■ STARRING: Ben Affleck, Samuel L. Jackson, Toni Collette, Sydney Pollack, William Hurt, Amanda Peet

■ RATING: R (language)

■ RUNNING TIME: 1 hour, 35 minutes

■ WHERE: Opens today at area theaters

■ GRADE: B+

approved for a house loan and can at least offer his sons a decent place to live.

Life being what it is, Gavin's

Mercedes is still driveable, while Doyle's sad little sedan isn't going anywhere. Gavin cavalierly tosses a blank check at Doyle and then ditches him by the side of the road with a breezy "better luck next time," not realizing until he's in court that he's left a crucial file with Doyle at the accident scene.

He's given the rest of the day to retrieve it, but Doyle is far too angry to just hand it over. Because of Gavin, he's late to family court — portrayed as just the grim, wretchedly busy place it is in real life — arriving just as the judge is telling his ex-wife that yes, she's free to take the kids and move to Oregon.

What follows is a mad game of tit for tat, one in which both men continue to defy our expectations. We're ready to pick a good guy and settle down on his side to watch the fight, because that's the way American movies typically work. Instead, our sympathies run back and forth. Sure, the yuppie is a self-centered twit, but what about Doyle's dangerous temper?

This is the first part Jackson has had in a while that pushes him, requiring him to do more than preen or imitate his own "Pulp Fiction" performance, and he lives up to it. Doyle is an an-

See LANES, Page C5

EVENTS

Museums

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY —

"Tengo Casi 500 Anos: Beyond the Middle Passage, Africa's Legacy in the Americas," through May 4. A photographic exhibition representing the 10-year odyssey of photographer Anthony Gleaton to research and document the descendants of Africans who were brought to Mexico, Central and South America during the height of colonial Spain's involvement in the slave trade.

"Golden Road to Freedom: The African Legacy in California, 1775-1900," ongoing. An exhibit focusing on the role that people of African descent played in later expeditions and settlements before the annexation of California.

"The West Oakland Senior Citizen Oral History Project," ongoing. A visual and oral exhibit capturing the history of some of West Oakland's senior treasures in 51 black and white photographs and recorded conversations. Featuring Dr. Marcella Ford, Ruth Beckford, Anthony Martinez, Alonzo Fields and more.

Free. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5:30 p.m. 659 14th St., Oakland. (510) 637-0200 or www.oaklandlibrary.org

EBONY MUSEUM OF ARTS —

A museum specializing in the art and history of Africa. The collection, which was on display in the museum's Jack London Village branch, has been incorporated with the material in the 14th Street Victorian Museum building, the site of the original museum.

Free admission, \$2 guided tour. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1034 14th St., Oakland. (510) 763-0141.

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM —

through December. The museum features extensive displays of operating model railroads constructed by the East Bay Model Engineers Society. Covering some 10,000 square feet, steam and modern diesel-powered freight and passenger trains operate in O, HO and N scales on separate layouts, as well as narrow gauge and trolley lines. Of special interest is the Tehachapi Pass and Loop on the N scale layout, showing how the multiple engine trains traverse the gorges and tunnels, passing over themselves to gain altitude to cross Tehachapi Summit just east of Bakersfield. In addition the layouts include such famous railroad landmarks as Niles Canyon, Donner Pass, and the Oakland Mole where transcontinental passengers were ferried across San Francisco Bay from their arriving trains. The displays are built and operated by the 68-year-old East Bay Model Engineers Society.

\$3 general; \$2 seniors and children under age 12; \$7 family maximum. Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline, 900 A Dornan Drive, Point Richmond. (510) 234-4884 or www.gsmrm.org

JUDAH L. MAGNES MUSEUM — "Telling Time: To Everything There Is A Season," through May. An exhibit structured around the seasons of the year and the seasons of life with objects ranging from the sacred and the secular, to the provocative and the whimsical. Highlights from Jewish and other cultures such as Tibetan and Mexican-American include treasures from ceremonial and folk art, rare books and manuscripts, contemporary and traditional fine art, video, photography and cultural kitsch.

Free. Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. (510) 549-6950 or www.magnessmuseum.org

MUSEE DES HOMMAGES —

"Masterworks Copies by Guy Colwell," ongoing. A new museum of masterwork recreations of famous European paintings handpainted by master California artist Colwell. The paintings, which cover a wide spectrum of European paintings from Van Eyck in the 15th century to Picasso in the 20th century, are full-scale, faithful copies of works by famous artists of the past, created in an attempt to understand the secrets of these great

See EVENTS, Page C5

Decreasing numbers mean shallow content

TELEVISION AND print do different things well — and not so well — and recent world events underline this. One thing in common, though: They're both doing it with fewer people. Don't even ask about radio, which is not just slashing staffs, but for the past 10 years (with only a few exceptions) has all but dropped news to play more music.

Few people in the media — any part of the media — I know enjoy their jobs any more. That's why it was sad but hardly surprising that newspaper trade journal Editor and Publisher reported this week that newspapers saw their greatest drain in journalists in 25 years last year — some 2,000 newspeople left the cost-cutting newspaper industry, says an American Association of Newspaper Editors study just released.

Given recent world events, it's the worst possible time for this to happen, and this brings us back to coverage. A siege of a building, embassy, or city? For this kind of breaking news, TV wins hands down. The reason for that siege? Usually, print wins.

Print, even with its recent dismaying trend of celebrity-mongering, can still go well beyond the superficial, beyond the pictures that TV requires and does best.

Recent events in New York and the Middle East are the reason I'm concerned about the cutbacks in print, and not just because I've grown up in the business (both my father and father-in-law were newspapermen). It's because what's going on in the world today begs for thought and careful analysis — not the "heightened emotions" that TV wants and its pictures produce.

This week's competing demonstrations over U.S. Mideast policy at UC Berkeley provide a good example. For several days, local TV stations had been hyping these — irresponsibly, I would posit — like they were the Frazier-Ali fight. TV loves conflict; that's why Jerry Springer's been around 15 years. Any TV reporter who'd asked Berkeley demonstrators what they thought Colin Powell's chances for success in reaching a peaceful settlement were might have been reassigned. Instead, TV reporters and their bosses opted to let demonstrators vent.

Another good example of how TV plays to emotions: Racism is an important issue, but one that we've seen repeatedly trivialized by TV. How many times lately have we seen an incident in which some teen-age numskull paints a swastika or a racial epithet on a building or a locker, and it becomes the lead story on that evening's TV news? (Especially on weekends and other slow local news days.) This gives these idiots exactly what they want — attention and a phony sense of importance — and does nothing to address the underlying causes of bigotry. And, sorry, this kind of coverage does not "increase awareness" of bigotry. It glorifies it and magnifies it. And it gives TV newscasts unsettling pictures — after all, swastikas do "heighten the emotions" and "involve" viewers.

TV rarely does thoughtful commentary these days. Commentators and editorials used to be common on local TV stations. Not any more.

On the plus side, we predicted recently here that New York Times diplomatic columnist Thomas Friedman would win a Pulitzer for his coverage of post-9/11 events, and indeed — and fortunately — he did.

Most Americans know ludicrously little about the rest of the world. Canada is our next-door neighbor and shares a common language and culture, yet the CBC recently reported that 92 percent of Americans don't know who Canada's prime minister is, and only 10 percent can even name its capi-

See MANN, Page C5

NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. The reviewers are Vera H. Chan and Mary F. Polis, Times; Robert W. Butler, Knight Ridder Newspapers; Anthony Breznican, David Germain, Christy Lemire, Tim Molloy, Sheila Norman-Culp and Matt Wolf, Associated Press; Stephen Holden, Dave Karger, Elvis Mitchell, A.O. Scott and Lawrence Van Gelder, The New York Times; Valerie Kuklensky, Bob Strauss and Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Daily News; Kevin Thomas, Los Angeles Times; Gary Dowell, Tom Maurostad, Chris Vognar and Philip Wunsch, Dallas Morning News; and Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel.

"ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS": Ice Cube plays Bucum Jackson, a Miami bounty hunter in pursuit of Reggie Wirtz (Mike Epps), a serial ball-jumper. When Reggie takes a wrong turn into a storage complex where a bloody jewel thief has just gone down, the crooks shoot their way past Bucum, unaware that Reggie is hiding in their getaway van. Reggie and Bucum both escape, but the bad guys now have Reggie's wallet along with his \$60 million lottery ticket. When Bucum finally tracks Reggie down, the antagonists join forces to get the ticket back. — B. Strauss. (R; violence, sex, language.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. C+

"AMADEUS: THE DIRECTOR'S CUT": Milos Forman's 1984 Academy Award-winning period piece is back in theaters with an additional 20 minutes of film

footage. F. Murray Abraham, who took home the best actor Oscar, remains the quintessential "soul in pain" whose jealousy translates into a monstrously ingenious plot to discredit the playboy-prodigy Mozart (Tom Hulce). — G. Lovell. (R; brief nudity.) 2 hour, 58 minutes. A

"AMELIE": A feel-good movie in the best possible sense, a comic fable from French director Jean-Pierre Jeunet that vibrates with joy and fast dances with life. Amelie (Audrey Tautou) is a lonely young lady who keeps a watchful eye on the rest of the world. One day she sets out to reunite a child's treasure with its long-grown owner and discovers she likes playing emotional Robin Hood. Setting out on a path to help her neighbors and the denizens of the cafe where she works, she inadvertently trips into a love affair with a guy (Mathieu Kassovitz) who might be sweetly eccentric as she is. — M. Polis. (R; sexual content.) 2 hours. A

"A BEAUTIFUL MIND": The film spans 47 years in the life of John Forbes Nash Jr. (Russell Crowe), a mathematical genius who won the Nobel Prize for economics in 1994. Doubtless the element that made Crowe want to play Nash (brilliantly) is that Nash also suffers from schizophrenia, and has for decades. Daring only in its subject matter — math and mental illness — the movie follows the careful trajectory of a classic inspirational story, occasionally

veering into the medicinal, but still undeniably moving and effective. Jennifer Connelly is excellent as Nash's wife. — M. Polis. (PG-13; intense thematic material, sexual content and a scene of violence.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. B+

"BIG TROUBLE": Former Pulitzer-Prize-winning columnist and divorcee Eliot Arnold (Tim Allen) is scraping the bottom in his Miami life when he's unwittingly pulled into lunacy involving a suitcase bomb, hired assassins, an unhappy housewife (Rene Russo) and a giant toad. Welcome to a comic universe where the Bible is Martha Stewart Living, and characters spout the wisdom of the Discovery Channel. Directed by Barry Sonnenfeld ("Get Shorty," "Men in Black") and based on the book by Miami Herald columnist Dave Barry, it recalls the ensemble comedies of the '70s, in which it turned back to the screwball comedies of the '30s and '40s. Allen is the weak link in an otherwise very funny cast, especially Stanley Tucci as a wealthy sleazeball and, understandably, target of assassins. Don't miss his toe-sucking scene. — V. Chan. (PG-13) 1 hour, 25 minutes. B+

"BLADE II": Wesley Snipes returns as a half-man/half-vampire hero waging a blood feud against a race of full-blooded vampires in this sequel based on the Marvel comic book character. The film opens with Blade rampaging through legions of bloodsuckers in a

mission to rescue his mentor, Whistler (Kris Kristofferson), who seemingly died in the first movie. Reunited, Blade and Whistler are reluctantly drawn into an alliance with the vampire overlord and his daughter to fight a new breed of super-vampires that threatens humans and regular bloodsuckers. As with the first film, the only way to get through "Blade II" is if there's a complete disconnection of that part of the brain that determines when something is really, really silly. — D. Germain. (R; strong pervasive violence, language, some drug use and sexual content.) 1 hour, 57 minutes. C

"CLOCKSTOPPERS": Jesse Bradford stars as Zak, who is smitten by the new exchange student Franca (Paula Garces) and is pals with Meeker (Garikay Mutambirwa). Zak's chances with the babe and his friend's chances at the big DJ competition improve when a hyper-time wrist device falls into the hands of his bland scientist dad and then into Zak's. It speeds up molecules so that its wearer and the wearer's friends (how convenient) are moving too fast for the rest of the world to see. The novel special effects are wasted on this comic thriller with few laughs and fewer thrills. — R. Moore. (PG; action, violence and mild language.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. D+

"DEATH TO SMOOTHY": The plot's satirical arena is the wicked world of kid-show networks, which, according to the screenplay, is an evil playground of payola to underworld connections. But the only real sin is getting caught, which is exactly what happens to egomaniac show host Rainbow Randolph (Robin Williams). He's busted for accepting a suitcase of big bucks from feds posing as parents who want their son to receive star treatment. The washed-up Rainbow watches in horror as Sheldon Mopas (Edward Norton) takes his place. Sheldon, with his creation Smoothy, a huggable rhino who promotes good health and feel-good ditties, soon becomes a media superstar. This film has the makings of a sharp, stinging satire, but the finished product trades wicket wit for abrasiveness. — R. Wunsch. (R; language, violence, sex, drugs.) 1 hour, 49 minutes. C

"E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL": The 20th anniversary re-release underscores less what prompted director Steven Spielberg's later legacy than what has gone missing: a patient, sweet devotion to storytelling. The film's tender intelligence and sweet humor remind us how much cinematic shorthand has truncated emotion in the mad rush toward special effects. A stranded alien ends up in the home of Elliott (Henry Thomas), whose parents have recently separated. E.T. becomes not a paternal figure or substitute son, but a friend who introduces the possibility of hope. Some scenes have been restored, and the most notable change is that guns have been replaced by walkie-talkies, but the image of the government as an invasive dark undercurrent remains. — V. Chan. (PG; language, mild thematic elements.) 2 hours. A

"THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING": A soulful, passionate giant of a movie, one that will live long past 2001. New Zealand director Peter Jackson's ("Heavenly Creatures") adaptation of the first third of J.R.R. Tolkien's epic "Lord of the Rings" enraptures you with its dramatic storytelling and visuals and leaves you rejoicing that there are filmmakers out there who have the guts to make a movie destined for vast commercial success that's also intelligent and ferociously heartfelt. Terrifying when it should be, moving when it should be, this holds steady to Tolkien's vision. One of the best movies of the year. — M. Polis. (PG-13; epic battle sequences and scary images.) 2 hours, 58 minutes. A

"THE FLUFFER": This movie begins as a light satire on the gay porn industry, but then develops parallel stories of thwarted love and emerges as a film of substance. The film's protagonist, Sean (Michael Cunio), is determined to break into the film industry. To pay the bills, he gets a job at a gay porn production company as a cameraman, but he is expected to do anything he's told to — including physically getting the company's megastar, Johnny Rebel (Scott Gurney), in the mood to perform for the camera. Johnny's popularity has peaked, and his relationship with an aspiring actress (Roxanne Day), who works at a strip club, is increasingly strained. Johnny is one of many porn stars who make gay pictures because they pay better than straight porn does. This fine example of modest-budget filmmaking boasts first-rate acting, writing and directing. — K. Thomas. (NR) 1 hour, 35 minutes. B

"GOSFORD PARK": There are no nutt

or tights in this comic murder mystery

from director Robert Altman, but make

no mistake, this is a ballon film. Every

aspect, from its ultimate ensemble cast

to the meticulous re-creation of the stale

England of years gone by, could have

OPENING TODAY

"BORSTAL BOY" (NR)

Shawn Hatosy stars as a young Brendan Behan, the Irish playwright, who was jailed in England for trying to smuggle explosives.

"CHANGING LANES" (R)

Ben Affleck plays an ambitious young lawyer who cuts off Samuel L. Jackson in busy New York traffic, igniting a war between the two men.

"FRAILTY" (R)

A man (Matthew McConaughey) approaches the FBI claiming to know the identity of a serial killer. Directed by Bill Paxton.

"HUMAN NATURE" (R)

The latest from Charlie Kaufman ("Being John Malkovich"), with Tim Robbins as a pompous scientist and Patricia Arquette as an unattractively hairy woman.

"LOLA" (NR)

A re-release of the classic 1961 film,

starring Anouk Aimée as a cabaret dancer awaiting the return of her lover, a sailor who ran off to America seven years earlier.

"NEW BEST FRIEND" (R)

Three privileged college coeds, including Dominique Swain, befriend a girl from the wrong side of the tracks with dangerous results. Co-starring Mia Kirshner and Oliver Hudson, Kate's bro.

"SON OF THE BRIDE" (R)

One of this year's Academy Award nominees for best foreign film. In Buenos Aires, a harried restaurante owner tries to cope with his own health and relationship problems, while his mother deteriorates from Alzheimer's disease.

"THE SWEETEST THING" (R)

Cameron Diaz stars in this raunchy comedy about a party girl who meets and loses her dream man, then goes on a hunt for him with her best friend (Christina Applegate).

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Titles and showtimes subject to change
Call theaters for information

*Wheelchair Accessible

Showtimes for Friday April 12

Alameda County

Act 1 and 2

2128 Center Street Berkeley 510-843-3456

Amadeus: Director's Cut (Not Rated) 12, 30, 4, 10, 30, 5, 25, 7, 30, 10

Y tu mama tambien (Not Rated) 11, 30, 2, 5

7, 30, 10

Albany Twin

1115 So Ave. Albany 510-843-3456

Amelia (R) 12, 30, 3, 30, 9, 90, 93

Monsoon Wedding (R) 1, 4, 7, 10

California Theatre

2113 Kirtzene St. Berkeley 510-843-3456

Theater temporarily closed

Century 16 Bayfair Mall *

350 Bayfair Mall, San Leandro 510-276-5694

All About the Benjamins (Not Rated) 12, 25, 3, 15, 25, 2, 7, 10, 15

Big Trouble (PG-13) 7, 35, 9, 45

Blade II (R) 12, 30, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 25

Changing Lanes (R) 12, 1, 20, 3, 20, 4, 40, 5, 40, 7, 8, 10, 9, 20, 10, 30

Clockstoppers (PG) 12, 25, 4, 7, 15, 9, 35

E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (11, 20, 2, 25, 5, 25)

Frailly (R) 12, 20, 3, 40, 5, 7, 10, 20, 25

High Crimes (PG-13) 11, 40, 12, 20, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 100

Y tu mama tambien (Not Rated) 11, 45, 12, 20, 2, 10, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 100

Century 25 Union City *

32100 Alvarado Blvd, Union City 510-487-9593

Big Trouble (PG-13) 11, 15, 1, 30, 4, 5, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95

Blade II (R) 11, 15, 25, 4, 25, 5, 25, 8, 10, 30

Changing Lanes (R) 11, 10, 20, 4, 20, 3, 20, 40, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95

Clockstoppers (PG) 12, 25, 4, 7, 15, 9, 35

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E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (PG) 11, 20, 2, 25, 5, 25)

Frailly (R

Tucker

FROM PAGE C3

If you need more information about the opera company or how to get to the audition, there's information and a map on the Alameda Civic Light Opera website at www.aclo.org.

Auditioners should prepare a Broadway-style song of not more than 16 bars, and bring sheet music in their key. An accompanist will be provided. No pre-recorded music allowed. Wear dance clothing and be prepared for a vigorous dance audition.

Auditions are by appointment only at 510-864-2256. Time slots are every five minutes. Drop-ins will be seen at times permits.

Funny thing about "A Chorus Line" most of you probably know but maybe not the newcomers. You can use it in your next musical theatre trivia game. Despite the title, there is no chorus in the show.

The original was first mounted in April 1975 at Joseph Papp's New York

Shakespeare Festival. The work — performed without intermission, without any real scenery except a mirrored rear wall, and with the entire cast in work clothes — described how a choreographer chose his chorus-to-be from applicants, not merely on how they danced, but on their life histories as they related them. So in the show they are still auditioners, not a chorus. Picky, perhaps, but sort of a title oddity.

It went on to open the following July at New York's Shubert Theatre. It grabbed almost every major award within reach.

The Alameda Civic Light Opera production opens the company's sixth summer season. It is a revival of one of the most popular shows of ACLO's first season.

The show will use approximately 30 dancers/actors, 17 of whom will play major roles.

OPENING TONIGHT:

Major mid-season offerings open tonight at two of the East Bay's most venerable venues: "Long Day's Journey Into Night" begins a month-long weekend run at Live Oak The-

atre, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through May 11, plus Thursday, May 9. Tickets are \$10, with discounts for groups of 15 or more. Jean-Marie Apostolidis, professor of drama at Stanford University, and a playwright himself, is staging the Eugene O'Neill classic for Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. Call 510-528-5620.

"Oliver!", the musical based on the Charles Dickens novel, "Oliver Twist," opens at Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito, playing at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on four Sundays, through May 25. Tickets are \$17 general; \$8 for youths 16 and under. Michael Manley directs. Call 510-524-9132, or for group sales 510-524-6654.

Jack Tucker's column runs Fridays. Send items of interest to him c/o The West County Times, 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA, 94806; fax to 510-262-2776; e-mail to jtucker@cc-times.com; or call 510-262-2768. Include a contact name and number.

sense, she's largely responsible for his predicament, because she's the one who sent him to the "Fixer" (Dylan Baker).

English director Roger Michell ("Notting Hill," "Persuasion") makes an assured American debut, building the tension between the two men with careful economy. In lesser hands, this could have turned into a mindless action movie, instead of a film peppered with insights about what makes us such an angry culture.

Michell and the script, written by Chapman Taylor and Michael Tolkin ("The Player"), take a few missteps, though. Since the whole story takes place on Good Friday, we're looking at a theme of redemption, a do-unto-others tale, and there are several subtle, barely registered reminders of the picture's religious under-

tones: a rosary hanging from the rear-view mirror of a cab or a picture of Jesus hanging in the empty closet in the house Doyle is trying to buy.

But then he and the screenwriters bungle that subtlety by sending Gavin to church. Bruised and bloody, he ends up in a confession booth accidentally-on-purpose (forgive me, Father, for there was no place else to sit), resulting in an implausible scene with a priest. It feels like cheating in an intriguing film that has otherwise stayed away from the obvious.

Mary Pops is the *Times* movie critic. She can be reached at 925-945-4741 or at mpops@cc-times.com.

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"THE TIME MACHINE": This new adaptation of H.G. Wells' classic futuristic story is directed by Simon Wells, great-grandson of H.G. himself. Surely a direct descendant wouldn't soil the memory of either the book or George Pal's 1960 film, right?

Well, yes and no. The story has been expanded to present a motivation for the Time Traveler's (Guy Pearce) journey, a romance that the elder Wells might have scoffed at, or at the very least been bored by. On the other hand, some cool elements have been added, including several clever bits of homage to Pal's film and special effects that reflect how the technology has come since 1960. — M. Pops. (PG-13: intense scenes of action violence.) 1 hour, 36 minutes. B-

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"THE ROOKIE": Critics tend to complain a lot about the violence and stupidities that pervades American cinema,

so you might wonder whether we then feel obliged to praise a G-rated movie like this baseball movie simply because it's squeaky-clean. Not so. "The Rookie" is a good movie not because of what it leaves out, but because of what it leaves in. It's got a quiet, gentle grace, decency and dignity. Dennis Quaid plays Jim Morris, a real pitcher whose career was cut short as a young man because of a shoulder injury. Now he's teaching high school chemistry and coaching the local version of the Bad News Bears. When his team makes a bet with him, he unexpectedly finds himself with a fresh chance at the game he loves. The resolution of his relationship with his cold unforgiving father (Brian Cox) is a bit pat, but this is a lovely family movie.

Quaid gives a genuine, understated performance. Rachel Griffiths plays his wife, Angus T. Jones his beguiling son. — M. Pops. (G) 2 hours. B+

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Mann

FROM PAGE C3

tal, Ottawa. There's now a recurring segment on one national Canadian program that, just like Jay Leno's depressing on-street interviews, shows how ignorant the average American is about our next-door neighbor.

And we know even less about the Middle East. But thanks to Friedman and a handful of other journalists, some Americans know a lot more than they did six months ago — even though we may not like what we're learning, things like the anti-American and anti-Semitic poison that's been spread for years by the press and schools in the Islamic world. Friedman's thoughtful, balanced analyses have helped lift the veil, so to speak.

Television, like print, is slowly beginning to follow Friedman's lead and has finally begun to do more reporting from inside the Arab world. ABC's Barbara Walters, never one of my favorites (as long-time readers know) performed a public service two weeks back with her revealing and dismaying prime-time special, reporting from inside secretive Saudi Arabia. I shook my head in dismay throughout her show.

Friedman's insightful pieces are one of the few sources I can count on to make sense of the horrible events going on in the Middle East. And one recent column called "Suicidal Lies," included some of the most insightful writing yet by Friedman, who (unlike all but a handful of American reporters) has been covering and traveling in the Arab world for years. "Lies" also directly addressed some oft-reported nonsense

we've seen repeated on TV about the reasons for current bloodshed.

"The world must understand," Friedman wrote, "that Palestinians have not chosen suicide out of 'desperation' stemming from the Israeli occupation. That is a huge lie. Why? To begin with, a lot of other people in the world are desperate, yet they have not gone around strapping dynamite to themselves." Plus, he adds, Yasser Arafat walked away from Bill Clinton's peace plan, one "that would have ended their 'desperate' occupation."

Friedman added in that piece: "Let's be very clear: Palestinians have adopted suicide bombing as a strategic choice, not out of desperation." I am thankful someone finally had the courage and insight to write that.

As you know if you've read his pieces, Friedman, even though he's Jewish, is NOT pro-Israel. You don't win Pulitzer's for commentary, as the Timesman did, by being partisan or one-sided. Television offers nothing comparable, not even PBS's first-rate but flawed "NewsHour."

And yet, despite today's explosive world, cutbacks in the media continue apace, for bottom-line reasons. Whither wisdom? In these troubled times, we need more reporting and more foreign bureaus, not less.

MULTIMEDIA NOTES: A usually reliable Oakland reader insists he saw KGO-TV weekend anchor Carolyn Johnson (a Stanford grad) refer, during a story on the Queen Mother's death, to her as "Queen Elizabeth I." Speaking of ABC-7, did anyone else notice that, for the first time in memory, "ABC World News Tonight" did not

even make a mention of the Pulitzer winners on Monday night's newscast?

Out at KCBS Radio: Veteran newsman and overnight co-anchor Fred Wayne. Replacing him: The station's senior anchor, former part-timer (by his own choice) Steve Little. Little, who lives up in the hills near Healdsburg, now has an even more killer commute to the station's Battery Street studios than his overnight co-anchor, fellow Sonoma County resident Larry Chiaroni. Chiaroni lives way up in rural Occidental. These guys really should carpool.

KBHK-TV and KPIX-TV finalize their corporate merger here on Monday, when Channel 44 staffers move into "Gray Rock" on Battery (where CBS MarketWatch.com and KCBS are also headquartered).

Among the many Channel 44 casualties — and quite a few from KPIX — are veteran engineers who have been at the stations 20 years or more. One prominent survivor: Capable KBHK exec Tom Spitz, who will program both TV stations. Thanks partly to Spitz, broadcast sales sources tell me, Channel 44 has been as profitable an operation as the bigger, CBS-affiliated Channel 5 in recent years. It's also good to see that one-time KGO-TV morning host Susan Sikora's lively local talk show on 44 has survived the merger.

Finally, NBC's Conan O'Brien: The latest from Afghanistan is that the U.S. military is reporting that Osama bin Laden is hiding out in a remote, desolate region. In other words, he's hiding at Kmart.

(Questions? Comments? E-mail Bill at newsman@sonic.net)

Lanes

FROM PAGE C3

guy, and the movie is honest enough to acknowledge the responsibility he bears for that anger. Some of his problems are society's fault, but most of them are his and his alone.

Affleck is better than usual, and he works well opposite the two fine actresses playing the very interesting women in his life, Toni Collette ("The Sixth Sense"), "Muriel's Wedding" and Amanda Peet. They've been cast against type, with Collette playing Gavin's colleague and former mistress, Michelle, and the luscious Peet, his ball and chain. But even here, there's some ambiguity. Michelle might represent Gavin's moral compass, but in a

cool look and dry wit, this is distinctly Coen brothers fare, but if you compare it to their best work, it feels more like an itch the brothers needed to scratch than, say, a "Fargo." Of course, with them, even an itch is going to be entertaining. — M. Pops. (R: a scene of violence.) 1 hour, 56 minutes. B

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Events

FROM PAGE C3

artists. The museum does not have regular hours so call ahead when planning a visit.

Free, 2028 9th St., Berkeley. (510) 841-4210 or www.ate1er9.com.

THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA —

"Scene in Oakland, 1852-2002: Artworks Celebrating the City's 150th Anniversary"

through Aug. 25. An exhibition of artworks, drawings, watercolors and photographs dating from 1852 to 2002 featuring views of Oakland by 48 California artists.

CLOSING —

"California Native Grandeur: Preserving Vanishing Landscapes," closing April 14.

An exhibition of approximately 50 paintings that documents the visions of early West Coast landscape painters. Artists featured include William Wendt, Granville Redmond, Maynard Dixon, William Keith, Thomas Hill, Paul Grimm and Guy Rose.

"The Rustler Ranch Mastodon Project," ongoing. Visitors are invited to watch staff members of the Natural Sciences Department prepare a nearly complete mastodon for exhibit. Monday

through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

OFF SITE EXHIBITS —

"Catherine Courtenay Sampler," through May 8. Works by the artist. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. In Latham Square Office Building, 1611 Telegraph Ave.

"Kinetic Sculpture by Kurt Wold," through April 27. At the OMCA Sculpture Court, City Center, 1111 Broadway, Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free.

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real designer Hitomi Gilliam, AIFD, shares some of his tips on design. \$15.

April 13, 1:30 p.m. "Terms of Beauty: A Lecture by Jim Folsom, director of the Huntington Botanical Gardens." \$15.

"Geology of Gems and Ornamental Stones," April 18, 12:30 p.m. A lecture by Jean DeMouthe, senior collections manager for geology at the California Academy of Sciences. Free.

"Family Explorations! Bat Day," April 21, noon to 4 p.m. Explore the world of bats. View Robert Bloomberg's 3-D slide show. Meet live bats with "Bat Lady" Patricia Winters. Enter the Bat Cavern Classroom to learn about bat adaptations for flight and echolocation. Free with regular museum admission.

"Online Museum," Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the museum's collection on videodisks in the History Department Library.

TOURS —

Docent Gallery Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m.

Art a la Carte, ongoing. Art docents offer a variety of specialized tours focusing on one aspect of the museum's permanent collection. Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. Free with regular museum admission.

\$6 general; \$4 seniors and students; free children age 5 and under; second Sundays are free to all. Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; Friday of the month, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 1000

See EVENTS, Page C6

Sunrise at Oakland Hills
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Events

FROM PAGE C6

as well as new plant pathogens that threaten to transform entire landscapes. All lectures are held in Room 2050, Valley Life Sciences Building, University of California. Free. (510) 643-0188.

Free. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Lobby, Valley Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley. (510) 642-1821 or www.ucmp.berkeley.edu

USS HORNET MUSEUM — Come aboard the USS Hornet, a World War II aircraft carrier that has been converted into a floating museum. The Hornet, launched in 1943, is 899 feet long and 27 stories high. During World War II she was never hit by an enemy strike or plane and holds the Navy record for number of enemy planes shot down in a week. In 1969 the Hornet recovered the Apollo 11 space capsule containing the first men to walk on the moon, and later recovered Apollo 12. In 1991 the Hornet was designated a National Historic Landmark and is now docked at the same pier she sailed from in 1944. Today, visitors can tour the massive ship, view World War II-era warplanes and experience a simulated aircraft launch from the carrier's deck.

EXHIBITS — "Hornets before Wings," ongoing. This exhibit chronicles the 227-year history of U.S. Navy ships bearing the Hornet name, from the Revolutionary War through the Cold War.

"Boomerangs and Roosters: Cold War ASW in the Pacific," ongoing. This exhibit honors the Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) squadrons assigned to protect America during the Cold War. As a cornerstone of the Museum's new ASW Research Division, the exhibit traces the development of the Hunter-Killer ASW Carrier Battlegroup and the role played by the VS Squadrons,

squadrons of anti-submarine planes.

"Flight Deck Fun," ongoing. A former Landing Signal Officer will show children how to bring in a fighter plane for a landing on the deck. Times vary. Free with admission.

SPECIAL EVENTS — **JROTC DRILL COMPETITION**, April 13. Come see and admire high school JROTC units from California and Nevada exhibit their drill and marching techniques on the Hornet's Flight Deck.

"Doolittle Raid Anniversary," April 18. In 1942, sixteen B-25s were loaded on board the USS Hornet at Alameda. Lt. Jimmy Doolittle led the Army Air Corps squadron on a mission against Japan that was to boost American morale and become the turning point of World War II. Visit the USS Hornet and learn more about this memorable event.

"Living Ship Demonstration," April 20. See the aircraft carrier in action as airplanes are lifted to the flight deck. Meet former crew members and learn what it was like to live and work on a floating naval station. As a salute to local hero Jimmy Doolittle, the Western Aerospace Museum will have a display of memorabilia on board the ship.

Protestant Divine Services, Sundays, 11 a.m. Hornet Chaplin John Berger conducts church services aboard the Hornet in the Wardroom Lounge. Everyone is welcome and refreshments are served immediately following the service.

\$12 general; \$10 seniors, students and military, active or inactive; \$5 youths age 5 to 16; free children under age 5. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pier 3 (enter at Atlantic Avenue), Alameda Point, Alameda. (510) 521-8448 or www.uss-hornet.org

WESTERN AEROSPACE MUSEUM — The museum features a display of aircraft ranging from World War II to present-day models, as well as

other historical aviation memorabilia. Among the museum displays are a McDonnell Douglas A-4 Skyhawk from the Vietnam War; a McDonnell Douglas-British Aerospace Harrier; a replica of the Wright Brothers 1911 Vin Fiz, the first plane to be flown across the United States; and a Lockheed Vega, a single engine plane flown by Amelia Earhart who set speed records in it. The plane is the only Vega in existence with an aluminum fuselage. Also included is a vertical take-off Hamer jet formerly belonging to NASA and a British-built flying boat. Docent-led tours available by special request.

\$7 general; \$6 seniors; \$3 children age 6 through 12; free children under age 6; \$2 additional for Shore Solent flying boat tour. Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. North Field, Oakland International Airport, 8260 Boeing St., Building 621, Oakland. (510) 638-7100.

Children

BARNES AND NOBLE, OAKLAND — "Kids Story Times," ongoing. Stories will be read in the Children's book area. Free. Thursday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. 98 Broadway, Jack London Square, Oakland. (510) 272-0120.

BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL — The Bay Area Ridge Trail, when completed will be a 400-mile regional trail system that will form a loop around the entire San Francisco Bay region, linking 75 public parks and open spaces to thousands of people and hundreds of communities. Hikes on portions of the trail are available through the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. Call for meeting sites.

ALAMEDA COUNTY — **Mountain Bike Basics**, April 13 and May 11, 9 a.m. The Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay teaches monthly free mountain bike classes. Learn to ride prepared, responsibly and

skillfully. The ride will include some hills and a slice of the Ridge Trail. Reservations required. (925) 258-9118. Free. (415) 561-2595 or www.ridetrail.org

BERKELEY EARTH DAY — April 20, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The day begins with the Eco-Motion Parade at 11 a.m. with children and adult walking, biking, skating, using electric go carts and cars, and other forms of non-polluting transport. The day includes cultural performances, music, a climbing wall, children's eco-art making area, vegetarian food

See EVENTS, Page C9

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THE DINING GUIDE



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Restaurant & Catering

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Dinner: 7 days a week, 5-10 pm

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Legend: \$ rating is average dinner entrée price

AE	American Express	\$	Entrees under \$7
CB	Carte Blanche	\$	\$7-\$14
DC	Diners Club	\$	\$15-\$20
DS	Discover Card	\$	\$20+
MC	MasterCard		
VS	Visa		
AC	All Cards accepted	FB	Full Bar
CA	Checks accepted	RR	Reservations recommended
		W	Wheelchair access

Pomegranate Restaurant

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Events

ROM PAGE C7

beer, craft and community booths, and Berkeley Farmer's Market Family Farm Day with hayrides. Free. Civic Center Park, Alston Street and in Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. (510) 654-6346 or www.bayareearthday.net

DROOKS ISLAND REGIONAL SHORELINE — "In to Kayaking," April 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A brief introduction to equipment and strokes and a trip through Richmond Harbor. Paddle Along Brooks Island's shoreline in single座 kayaks in the sheltered bay water. Then enjoy a two-mile paddle on the island. Bring lunch and water. Bring sunscreen and a hat, good walking shoes and mosquito repellent. Minimal participation required. Reservations required. Meeting place will be announced with reservations. (510) 561-1684.

BUDDY CLUB CHILDREN'S SHOWS — Dick Vito, April 21, 1 p.m. An award-winning magician. \$7. The Berkeley Jewish Community Center Theater, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. (510) 236-5000 or www.thebuddyclub.com

CHABOT SPACE AND SCIENCE CENTER — A state-of-the-art facility unifying all science education activities around astronomy.

GALLERIES AND EXHIBITS —

"Spaceflight: Journey to the Stars," through June 9. Explore the past, present and future of space travel with artifacts on loan from NASA. The exhibit, which traces the development of the nation's space exploration, includes a full-scale replica of the Mercury space Capsule, a scale model of the Mercury-Redstone rocket used to launch the capsule into space, a Mercury space suit, a Gemini spacecraft, full-scale models of the Apollo moon spacecraft and the three-stage Saturn V rocket designed to launch the Apollo. A 1/50-scale model of the Space Shuttle, part spaceship and part ferryboat. There are also scale models of space exploration ships such as the Cassini-Huygens, the Stardust, Mars Odyssey spacecraft, the Hubble Space Telescope as well as a 1/50 scale model of the International Space Station.

"Zeiss Telescopes," ongoing. A traveling exhibit displays scopes and other stargazing equipment from the noted German manufacturer. Also included is Chabot's Zeiss Unistellar Starball in the Planetarium.

"Spaceflight Gallery," ongoing. A traveling exhibit that offers visitors a chance to discover the connections between human exploration, scientific endeavor and the historical accomplishments of space flights through both simulated and real features.

"Our Place in the Universe," ongoing. A walking tour of the universe using 3-D technology and featuring the globe, on permanent loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

"Planetary Landscapes: Exploring the Solar System," ongoing. Wander through a sun of swirling atmospheres, calving icebergs, and a sea of clouds in this exhibit of interactive sculptures by artist Ned Kahn.

"Astronomy in California 1850-1950: Observatories, Telescopes, Makers and their Instruments," ongoing. Explore California's astronomical history through a display of telescopes, artifacts, and the histories of their makers, on loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

"The Origin and Meaning of Stories," ongoing. A mural by artist Joy Day and B.E. Jason, accompanied by a meteorite samples.

"Shadow Dance: Make An Eclipse," ongoing. Create different types of solar and lunar eclipses, activate sensors on the exhibit floor, and learn about eclipse myths, rituals and celebrations found in many world cultures. This multi-media exhibit changes each visit.

"Touch the Sun," ongoing. Watch solar movies, explore the nature of light, learn about the mythology surrounding the sun and about real-time solar energy usage from the Science Center's solar panels.

"Light," ongoing. Learn about the sometimes temperamental behavior of the sun and

the effects it has on earth through the Solar-B mission.

CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER COMMUNITY MISSIONS — Second Saturday, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. For adults and youths age 11 and up. Limited space, \$15.

DISCOVERY CLUB — through May 15. An after-school workshop for children ages 5 to 7 to explore the theme "Our Place in the Universe," brainstorms, solve problems, design, create and explore scientific processes. Free but pre-registration required. April 17, 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

PACCT DISCOVERY MISSIONS — A monthly program. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., through June 15. For teams of adults and children ages 11 and up. Design, build and present a proposal to NASA for a STARDUST spacecraft. \$45 per team.

ASK JEEVES PLANETARIUM — Featuring one of the most advanced star projectors in the world. CALL FOR CURRENT SHOW SCHEDULE.

"Explorers of Mauna Kea," through August. Hear legends of this volcano, learn about the telescopes on the summit of this 14,000 extinct volcano and how they work, and explore the cosmos with astronomy's leading scientists.

"Starbound: A Sky for All Seasons," through June. A journey through the stars following the earth's motion around the sun. Prominent constellations of the four seasons are featured.

"The Sky Tonight," ongoing. A look at the current stars, constellations, and planets, the Andromeda Galaxy, and the Milky Way. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"Wonders of the Milky Way," through June. This tour of the Milky Way Galaxy, beginning with its formation billions of years ago, surveys the wonders discovered by modern astronomy.

\$8.75 general; \$6.50 seniors and children.

TIEN MEGADOME SCIENCE THEATER — A 70-foot dome-screen auditorium. Showtimes subject to change. CALL FOR CURRENT SHOW SCHEDULE.

"The Living Sea," ongoing. The film celebrates the beauty, power and importance of the ocean. Produced in association with The National Maritime Center, the Ocean Film Network and Dr. Robert Ballard.

"Mysteries of Egypt," ongoing. Experience the magic and mystery of Egypt by soaring over the great pyramids of Giza, cross the remote Valley of the Kings, and descend into the shadowy chambers of the sacred tomb of King Tutankhamen.

"Solarmax," ongoing. Live images of the sun and footage from around the world of solar observatories of the past, present, and future telling humankind's struggle to understand the sun.

"To Be An Astronaut," ongoing. Venture inside the gates of NASA to experience the rigors of astronaut training.

Si-Fi Film Monthly Friday through Sunday Night Screenings: Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 4:30 p.m. \$8.75 general; \$6.50 seniors and children under age 12.

OBSERVATORY COMPLEX — Explore the night sky with refractor telescopes. Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Free.

\$8 general; \$5.50 seniors and youths age 4 to 12; free children age 3 and under; free for all on the first Wednesday of the month; free weekends for telescope viewing only; \$4 parking. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additional planetarium, theater and telescope observatory evening hours: Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. (510) 336-7300 or www.chabotspace.org

CHILDREN'S FAIRYLAND USA — A fairy tale theme park featuring more than 30 colorful fantasy sets. Designed especially for children age 10 and under, there are gentle rides, a train, the "Peter Rabbit Village," puppet shows, storytelling and lots of slides and animals.

"Play Island," ongoing. A multi-level treehouse play area inspired by the novel "Swiss Family Robinson."

\$6 general includes unlimited rides, special shows, guest entertainers and puppet shows; free children under age 1. Friday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weather permitting. 699 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. (510) 452-2259, (510) 238-6878 or www.fairyland.org



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Friday, April 12, 2002

Section D

Classic Classics: This Ford Ranchero still a workhorse [D3]

CHERYL JENSEN
Down the Road

head restraints
are not 'head
rests'; they are
safety devices

MOTOR MATTERS
They're not called head rests. They
are head restraints. You may rest
your head against them when you
get stuck in a traffic jam, but that
isn't their primary purpose.
Since 1969, head restraints have
been required as safety equipment
by the federal government to help
reduce whiplash injuries in relatively
low-speed, rear-end crashes.
Until recently they haven't been
good enough to do the job,
according to some safety
researchers.

The good news is that automakers are doing a better job of
making head restraints that should
prevent these neck injuries, accord-
ing to ratings earlier this year
by the Insurance Institute for High-
way Safety — the Arlington, Va.-
based group — which is funded by
the insurance industry.

The institute evaluated head re-
straints in 200 vehicles from the
model year and found 54 per-
cent were either "good" or "ac-
ceptable."

It's a huge improvement over
findings in 1995 when the In-
stitute first began evaluating head
restraints. At that time, only 7 per-
cent were rated "good" or "ac-
ceptable." In fact, just five cars were
rated "good," and three of the five
were Volvo models.

Just two years ago, when head
restraints were evaluated by the In-
stitute, fewer than one-third were

See ROAD, Page D2



MOTOR MATTERS

PONTIAC AZTEK offers four lifestyle packages to build on its versatile rear area; three are geared to outdoor activities with a bikers' package that includes rack for interior or exterior mounting; a hikers' package that provides custom-fitted backpacks, and a camping option with a tent that extends off the back and an air mattress that slides onto the floor when rear seats are removed.

2002 Pontiac Aztek AWD: Looking beyond its looks

MOTOR MATTERS

Much of the attention that Pontiac's Aztek received when it made its debut last year had to do with its looks.

GM stylists have done some post-premiere year face-lifting, but as Aztek enters its sophomore season, it's still no threat to win a beauty contest.

As with people, though, you may miss a lot here if you don't look past what the eye can see. One of the first vehicles in a category known as crossovers, Aztek's strong suit is versatility, and its target market

is the outdoor enthusiast.

Aztek's interior blends a sporty's philosophy with the adaptability of a minivan. Starting with the standard front bucket seats, buyers choose from either a pair of captain's chairs or a three-passenger split bench in back. Both rear chair options can be folded forward or removed outright to increase cargo handling possibilities.

There is a sizable 45 cubic feet of space available in back, ex-
pandable to 93.5 cubic feet when rear seats are removed. Once you've got those seats out, Pontiac

has a number of interesting options for what you might replace them with.

With tailgate dropped, there is
sufficient room to carry 4x8-foot plywood sheets in back. Anchor hooks are found all over the cargo bay to help secure the load.

Side saddle storage areas of various sizes are built-in along the back walls, too. Buyers can select a

cargo net system or a tray system that supports up to 400 pounds of sporting gear, camping stuff, home improvement products or the like.

The tray slides up and back for easy loading/unloading and can be removed and rolled away using the built-in handle and wheels.

The liftgate/tailgate is a two-
piece, clamshell design. Though not as convenient for quick access as a one-piece door or hatch would be, it makes up for its lack of flexibility with added visibility.

The liftgate is a split glass de-
sign that allows something rare in

a utility vehicle — the opportunity to actually see what's directly behind you.

Among the four "lifestyle" packages available to build on the Aztek's versatile rear quarters are three that suit outdoor enthusiasts.

Bikers can choose a package that includes a rack for interior or exterior mounting of their two-wheelers. Hikers can select an option that provides custom-fitted backpacks that attach to the front seatbacks when not in use.

See AZTEK, Page D2

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High-tech explorer maps streets

BY MATT NAUMAN

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

There are no walnut trees in KB Home's Walnut Hills subdivision off Interstate 680 in Pleasanton. There are no hills either.

In fact, there's not really a subdivision here. Not yet, anyway. Just some models and a few half-constructed homes that will sell for \$628,500 to \$729,000 after they're built in the next few months.

What's here — where a field of hay used to grow — is mud and gravel and concrete trucks and house framers and lots of other workers in hard hats. It's a tangled, treacherous mess. Forklifts move back and forth.

Roads, some paved, others not, are often blocked by equipment, workers or barricades.

But none of it deters Ron Bennett. He's a digital mapmaker for Navigation Technologies, which has a local office in Sunnyvale.

NavTech is the industry leader in supplying mapping databases for in-car and handheld navigation systems as well as for Internet sites and wireless applications.

Before the end of this bright, chilly day, Bennett will have logged 153 miles in South San Jose and southern Alameda County, adding information for 108 streets, including the locations of dividers and where people can and can't make legal turns, into the NavTech database.

NavTech has nearly 5.4 million miles of North American roads, streets and highways in its database, but new ones are being built all the time, and it's the job of people such as Ron Bennett to drive them first.

In places such as Walnut Hills, Bennett is way ahead of the curve. He first looks for street signs. He then looks for street numbers.

Sometimes street signs are one of the first things to get stuck into the ground in a new subdivision. Sometimes they're not.

And when they're not, Bennett relies on experience and intuition.

He finds street names embedded into concrete curbs. Or written in haste on small yellow signs that stick out of the mud where a house will grow. Or scrawled with a Magic Marker on the front of a utility box.

Modern explorer Bennett's know-how and the tools of his trade make him something of a modern-day Lewis and Clark. Developers build homes. Families buy them.

But it's Bennett and hundreds of other NavTech staffers around the world who turn those addresses into destinations for the rest of us.

"It's one of the ironies of this high-tech product that it really takes local knowledge," said John MacLeod, Navigation Technology's executive vice president for marketing and sales.

Navigation Technology of Sunnyvale has nearly 5.4 million miles of North American roads, streets and highways in its database, but new ones are being built all the time, and it's the job of people such as digital mapmaker Ron Bennett to drive them first.

"There's no central place in the U.S. to find out where the next road is being built."

So, while the privately held company gets some mapping information from government sources, such as city or county planning departments, or from housing developers, much of NavTech's mapping information is gathered by its field force.

Each person is responsible for a certain territory, and they monitor newspaper real-estate ads or watch for signs touting new developments.

And when they see signs of something starting, say a graded road on a hillside, they leave themselves notes to return to the area in a month or two.

Bennett, a former Western region manager of field operations, is now a technology support manager. He manages the hardware, works to improve the data-collection software and teaches and trains the field staff.

He gathers information about four days a month "prototyping new software and developing best practices. Performing real collection is the best way to prototype new tools and processes."

On this day, he first drives his Chevrolet Malibu sedan — white and inconspicuous, except for the cone-shaped Global Position System (GPS) satellite antenna mounted on the roof — to Silver Creek Valley Road in South San Jose.

Inside the car, there's a dash-mounted laptop that's running an in-house version of NavTech's map using the company's WinGWS software.

Using voice commands or a game pad or a pen tablet, Bennett can drop in icons, signs and symbols.

The car's path creates the map on the screen. Into a shirt-mounted microphone, Bennett describes his position ("lane two of two"), what he's seeing ("large divider on the left," "35 mph sign," "Chisn Street, 2105 on the left") between each road segment.

ment, which is how NavTech catalogues the territory from one intersection or cross-street to the next.

After a day of (street) hunting and (address) gathering, Bennett will return to the office to clean up the data and permanently add it to the database.

Points of interest (POIs) are culled from another company and then added to NavTech's data.

NavTech has nearly 1.2 million POIs — things such as restaurants, parks, gas stations and ATM machine locations — in its North American database, according to Bob Richter, a company spokesman.

MacLeod, who joined NavTech in 2000 after working for Sony and Disney, is part of a management team that's "evolving and changing" the company from a provider of digital maps for expensive in-car navigation systems into a provider of maps for mainstream users — those on the Web, those who carry PDAs, fleet drivers and drivers of mainstream cars such as the Toyota Camry, which offers a navigation system for the first time in its 2002 model.

"We're trying to revolutionize what people think about maps," MacLeod said.

It's all part of the telematics buzz, the soon-coming wave that combines entertainment, information, navigation and location-based merchandising inside a vehicle.

After a quick lunch at McDonald's — he parks the car so he can keep a watch on it and its equipment through a window — Bennett is off to Pleasanton. Here, new subdivisions grow as fast as the weeds they replaced.

An afternoon becomes a blur as Falls Creek Drive becomes Hidden Creek Court becomes Creek Trail. Bennett is working fast, rarely stopping the car except to figure his route to a new "sub."

He allows himself a pat on the back when he finishes one ("That is nailed!") or an occasional comment about overdevelopment ("Too bad. This area used to be very beautiful."), but he remains thoroughly focused.

He says he snaps a digital photo when he comes by something truly odd, but he's too busy searching for a street name to notice a giant blue heron whose home is about to disappear.

Despite the maze of unfinished streets, he never gets lost and knows exactly which streets he has covered and which ones need to be done. "A matter of experience," he said.

"For me, when I see a new development, I see a challenge," Bennett said.

"Can I do it better, before and more accurately, and make it available to the general public more quickly?"



MOTOR MATTERS

Trucks

FROM PAGE D3

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You can order directly from the company's Web site, www.trucktunnel.com, phone 877-488-6635.

Japanese cars still rated the highest

BY TOM INCANTALUPO

NEWSWIRE

The Japanese still build the most trouble-free vehicles, Toyota and Subaru especially, says Consumer Reports' annual new car issue.

Based on half a million responses from its readers, the annual survey also shows European vehicles coming in second and Big Three vehicles close behind

them. Among the latter, Chrysler Group vehicles had the fewest problems, followed by GM, while Ford brought up the rear.

Overall, the vehicle with the fewest reported problems was the Infiniti QX4 SUV. The most reliable passenger car was the Infiniti I30.

The worst was the two-wheel drive version of the Ford Explorer Sport Trac.

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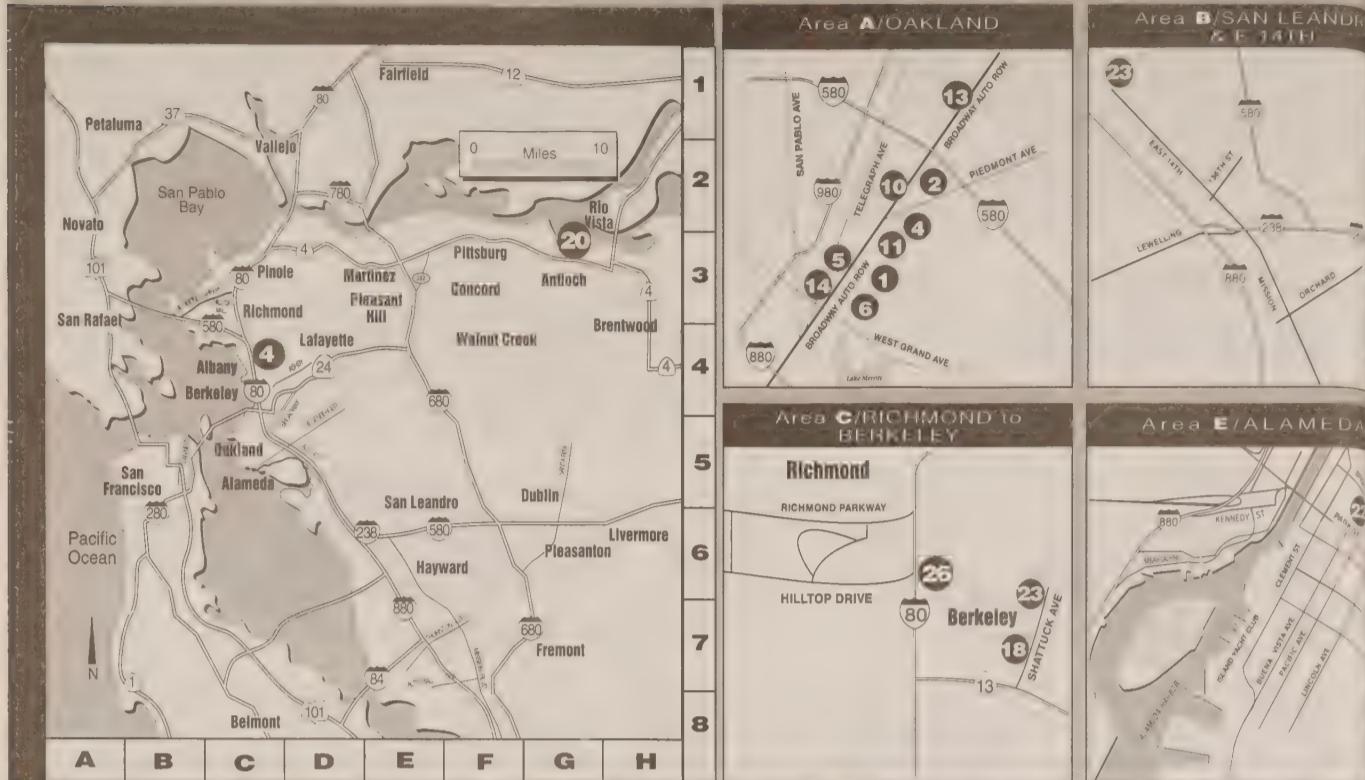
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QUALIFICATIONS
Experience:
High school diploma or equivalent. Experience with: • Computer programs including Word, Excel, Power Point and Publisher.

Two years secretarial and office management experience. Experience working with diverse populations. Experience with non-profits preferred.

Demonstrate the ability to be self-directed and work independently. Demonstrate effective verbal and written communication skills.

Compensation:
\$15.00 - \$19.00 per hour, based on qualifications. No benefits included. Reimbursement for required travel provided. Position located in Walnut Creek.

Send position with education and work experience to: Frank Lohar, President, Region IX Head Start Association c/o Los Angeles County Office of Education 17315 Studebaker Road Cerritos, CA 90703

Deadline for submission of resumes: May 3, 2002

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Friday, April 12, 2002

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All-American tasty snack comes home from the movies

STEPHANIE DUNNEWIND

THE SEATTLE TIMES
associated only with theater munching — the advent of television caused an initial slump in the 1950s — now popcorn is eaten at home, in front of the TV.

Popped whole grain is so good it can be paired with dozens of toppings, from sweet to salty — or, in the case of the ubiquitous kettle corn, both at the same time. It's a healthy snack, full of carbohydrates, or a decadent treat in caramel, chocolate or butter.

It's a universal snack that lends itself to a lot of different flavorings," says Tom Elen, vice president of marketing for Iowa-based Jolly Pop. "You can find a recipe to fit any type of party."

Americans consume 16 billion pounds of popped popcorn each year, with the average person gobbling about 68 quarts annually, said Carbonara, communications director for the Chicago-based Popcorn Board.

The majority (70 percent) is eaten at home, while the rest is purchased at stadiums, movie theaters, and the like. Popcorn is one thing just about everyone enjoys," Carbonara said. "Just saw sales rise from 934 pounds in 1998 to 981 million in 2000."

Popcorn has been an American millennial. Native Americans and English colonists to pop the first Thanksgiving feast. The first use of microwave heating in the 1940s was to pop popcorn. Now most popcorn eaten at home is made in the microwave (70 percent is purchased already popped in ready-to-eat bags, with kernels taking up the rest). Microwave popcorn accounts for \$240 million in annual U.S.

The hottest flavor in microwave popcorn is the slightly sweet, slightly salty kettle corn, which has been available for about a year. Though most people prefer the convenience and ease of microwave popcorn, some say the bagged stuff just can't compete with the taste of popcorn made by the traditional method.

Mary MacLean of West Seattle, Wash., has friends who insist she make three or four batches of popcorn when they come over. She makes it on the stovetop because she thinks the oil in microwave popcorn gives it a funny flavor.

She uses canola oil and only white popcorn — because "it's fluffier and I like it better than yellow" — in a four-quart pan she reserves for popcorn.

Though she'll put butter or Parmesan cheese on it for friends, she prefers it with salt only.

A stovetop popper with a stirring rod, which pops corn in just a couple minutes, sells well at Sur la Table, a Seattle-based chain of upscale kitchen-equipment stores, said spokeswoman Susanna Linse.

Another popper with a basket and long handle, designed to pop kernels over a campfire or barbecue, is popular during the summer.

"It makes a huge difference to pop popcorn on the stove," said Sur la Table President Renee Behnke.

Cooks who make plain popcorn can have fun experimenting with different seasonings, such as sprinkling corn with flavored oils instead of butter or dusting it with garlic or chili powder.

Though white and yellow varieties are most common, gourmet popcorn kernels also come in red, black, blue, pink, purple and brown (they all pop up white, however).

The red variety, also known as strawberry popcorn, has a nutty flavor and crunchy texture; black popcorn pops without a hull and is therefore very tender.

Popcorn took a public-relations



BARRY WONG/SEATTLE TIMES

THE ADVENT OF TELEVISION caused an initial slump in the consumption of popcorn in the 1950s because most was eaten at movie theaters. Now the majority of popcorn snackers partake of it in front of the television set.

hit in the early 1990s when the Center for Science in the Public Interest blasted a container of the theater popcorn for having as much fat as six Big Macs.

Carbonara says popcorn is like salad — a good food that can become less good when people start adding high-fat toppings. Microwave popcorn also makes it harder to control fat and salt. Popcorn is one of those things

that is easy to keep nibbling away at. Two people sharing a bag of Newman's Own natural-flavor microwave popcorn, for example, could each consume approximately 16 grams of fat, 270 milligrams of sodium and 255 calories in a sitting.

Dieters still rely on popped popcorn as a filling nonfat, sugar-free, low-calorie snack (30 calories in a cup). But most people eat popcorn because it tastes good, not be

cause it's good for them. "We eat popcorn in America like nobody else eats it," said Behnke, noting that movie fare in Italy or France is wine and toasted nuts. "Popcorn is truly only an American phenomenon."

Popcorn recipes

FIVE-SPICE POPCORN
2 1/2 quarts plain popped corn
1 cup chow mein noodles

1/2 cup coarsely chopped peanuts
1/4 cup unsalted butter
1/2 teaspoon sugar
1/2 teaspoon five-spice powder
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon hot chili oil
About 1/4 teaspoon salt
■ In a large roasting pan, combine the popped corn, chow mein

See POPCORN, Page 2

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Chicken-fried steak with pan gravy is a quick comfort food that's inexpensive

BY WILLIAM RICE
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Today the ever-expanding boundaries of comfort food include a dish that in recent years has been more talked about than eaten, except at truck stops. I refer to the chicken-fried steak, an inexpensive cut of beef, coated in flour and fried until brown.

Quick to cook and economical, it can be a treat. Or it can be tough, tired and weighed down by a pan gravy that has the texture and taste of wallpaper paste. There's no secret to success, really. If your steak is inexpensive, and it should be, it's going to be tough.

I use cube steak, which has been tenderized to some degree by the butcher. Just take time to work the flour into the meat evenly and don't cook it beyond medium.

A little cornbread, a friendly vegetable, something cold to wash it down and a taste of something sweet to finish is the recipe

for a nicely "satisfying" meal.

If your comfort zone includes a side of creamy mashed potatoes with your meat but you are counting calories, toss shredded, steamed zucchini with a little tomato sauce or leave the zucchini plain and make it into a bed for the steak and gravy.

Menu

Chicken-fried steak with pan gravy

Shredded zucchini with tomato sauce

Corn bread with butter and cane syrup

Iced tea or beer

Pralines

Time-saving tips

Shred the zucchini first and steam it while preparing the steaks.

Heat some tomato sauce in a saucepan while the steaks are cooking and toss the zucchini in the hot sauce to warm it up.

CHICKEN-FRIED STEAK WITH PAN GRAVY

2 cube steaks, about 6 ounces each

1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons flour

1/2 teaspoon each: salt, freshly ground pepper, paprika, plus more to taste

1 cup vegetable oil

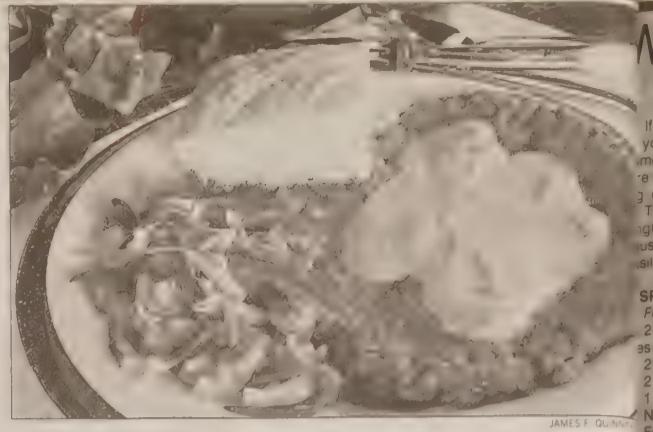
2 tablespoons chopped tomato

1 tablespoon chopped onion

1 1/4 cups milk, or more if needed

■ Pat the steaks dry; set aside. Combine 1/4 cup of the flour and 1/2 teaspoon of the salt, pepper and paprika on a plate; stir with a fork until well blended. Coat each steak with the flour mixture; pound lightly on both sides with a rolling pin or the side of a cleaver to help the meat absorb the flour. All the flour should be used.

■ Heat the oil in a skillet until very hot, 375 degrees. Add the steaks; cook until seared and well crusted on one side, about 2 minutes. Turn the steaks with tongs; cook 2 minutes more for medium.



JAMES F. QUINN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE
CHICKEN-FRIED STEAK and a side of shredded zucchini can create a quick and satisfying weeknight supper.

Transfer the steaks to a plate lined with paper towels; keep warm.

■ Pour off all but 2 tablespoons of the cooking oil. Return the pan to medium-low heat. Whisk in remaining 2 tablespoons of the flour;

cook 1 minute. Add the tomato and onion. Whisk in milk; cook until warm. ■ Pour off all but 2 tablespoons of the cooking oil. Return the pan to medium-low heat. Whisk in remaining 2 tablespoons of the flour;

■ Spoon a little onto plates. Top with remaining gravy at the table. Preparation time: 20 minutes. Cooking time: 10 minutes. 2 servings.

Curry an extremely versatile seasoning for thought

BY ARTHI SUBRAMANIAM

THE BOSTON GLOBE

What is curry? The word is misused, often distorted, as a catchall term for any hot or spicy dish of Indian origin.

Not all spicy dishes are curries, such as the vindaloo, kurmas, kootus, and do pyas. There is no standard, predefined curry dish.

Also, curry powder, the yellow spice mix found in supermarkets, is scoffed at by the cognoscenti. In the Indian subcontinent, freshly ground spices are the order of the day.

With spice mixtures varying from dish to dish and from region to region, the blends cannot be represented in the form of a single curry powder, they say.

"The word 'curry' is as degrading to India's great cuisine as the term 'chop suey' was to China," says Madhur Jaffrey, the cookbook author in "An Invitation to Indian Cooking."

"If curry is an oversimplified name for an ancient cuisine," Jaffrey says, "curry powder attempts to oversimplify (and destroy) the cuisine itself."

The word, whose origins go to southern India, has traveled far and wide, turning up in Thailand,

Ethiopia, and the Caribbean.

The British are said to have appropriated curry from the Tamil word "kari," which means a dry vegetable dish or a meat dish in a sauce, or from the curry leaf of the Muraya koenigii plant that is used in India to convey the same meaning.

Lore has it that the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama, who set up trade in southern India in the 15th century, changed the nature of the spice mix by introducing chili peppers, which had been brought to Europe from the New World.

Southern masalas are more likely to contain chilies as an ingredient as a result.

Over the years, several variations of the dishes and spice mixtures have flowed from the give and take of ideas and tastes. Recipes may call for a long list of ingredients, but curry dishes don't have to be complicated, and the cooking is straightforward.

All you need is an open mind and an appetite for deep flavors.

First keep in mind that curry is versatile. It can be dry or accompanied with a sauce. It can be done with as few as four ingredients or as many as 15 to 20. It can

be bland or spicy. It can be buttery and indulgent; it can be light and lean, with little oil.

Curry has also come to mean a blend of spices that has heat and fragrance. The word masala is used in India to convey the same meaning.

The spice shelf of a cook who makes curry might hold seeds, pods, sticks, leaves, and powders that render sweet, sour, hot, and bitter tastes. But you don't need anything that exotic to make a good curry.

Recipes for the Indian spice mixtures, with variations on the proportions used, are passed down from generation to generation. The recipes differ from region to region.

A southern blend known as sambar powder comprises coriander and cumin seeds, black pepper, fenugreek, red chilies, and turmeric powder.

A northern version of garam masala includes ground cumin, coriander, black pepper, cloves, cardamom, cinnamon, mace, and nutmeg.

Panchna, a classic blend from the east, contains fenugreek, fennel, cumin, black mustard, and nigella (kalonji) seeds.

Dishes in the west tempered with goda (black) masala include a ground mixture of coriander, sesame, cumin, and caraway seeds, desiccated coconut, asafetida (a resin), cinnamon, cloves, cardamom, red chilies, and turmeric powder.

Mixing and matching of spices from the different regions is acceptable as long as it is agreeable to the tastebuds.

A spice mixture can be ground either into a powder or a paste. The flavor is at its best when the spices are roasted dry before being ground.

The shelf life of a powder is not more than six months, and outlasts that of a paste. A paste could include coconut, tamarind (a sour pulpy fruit), ginger, garlic, onions, and tomatoes.

I learned to make vegetable curries from my mother. The carrot curry that follows is simple, and can be made quickly when unexpected guests show up. The chili can be left out if you want it mild.

The potato-and-peas curry has a strong flavor and some heat. These dishes can be served with rice or breads such as parathas, pooris, and chappatis.

ping stops. Now pop up a big bowl to enjoy while reading fun books about popcorn specially for kids!

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"If You Take a Movie Popcorn" by Laura Joffe, Felicia Bond (Illustrator)

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Sonoma vineyard offers very food-friendly wines

BY JOHN GRIFFIN
SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

When a zinfandel label boasts its "old vines," what exactly does that mean? In the case of Kunde Estate Winery, it means 120 years. About as old as Edison's light bulbs, the Alaska Gold Rush and the introduction of long-distance phone calls.

Kunde Estate Winery itself hasn't been around that long. The family bought the Sonoma County vineyard in 1904, but operated it for years under its original name, Wildwood Vineyards. Since then, it faced Prohibition and a shutdown during World War II.

The fourth generation of Kunes revived the winemaking operation in 1991, this time under the family name, and the winery's reputation has been steadily building, thanks especially to its Century Vines Zinfandel and its chardonnays.

Helping bring that about has been the task of winemaker David Noyes, whose background in-

cludes 10 years at Ridge Winery in addition to working at several Bordeaux chateaux.

The attention the winery pays to achieving excellence is evident in the handling of its 2000 Sonoma Valley Chardonnay, its largest output at about 50,000 cases. Sixty percent of this wine was fermented in barrel followed by a complete malolactic fermentation. Twenty-five percent of it was aged in new wood, while the remainder was aged in older barrels.

The result is an extremely food-friendly wine that doesn't taste like a plank and sells for a fairly attractive \$17 a bottle. New oak too often overpowers the chardonnay grape's natural flavors.

Here, there's a nice balance of apple and melon with the buttery, vanilla quality the wood imparts. It partnered beautifully with a bowl of toasted almonds as an appetizer. It also has a youthful quality that indicates it could be successfully held for a few years.

Peter Schneider, president of

Kunde, is obviously proud of the elegance Noyes has achieved in the winery's offerings. "When a winemaker's got a passion for something, it usually turns out wonderfully," he said during a recent marketing trip to San Antonio.

While stumping on behalf of his wines, Schneider explained that Kunde isn't the typical winery. Vines don't cover even half of the 2,000-acre farm. Only 800 acres are planted; the rest are used to raise Hereford cattle. Planted on those Sonoma slopes and outcrops, though, are 23 varietals that thrive in the multitude of differing microclimates the huge acreage provides.

Not all of those are bottled by the winery. "We can't make everything we grow," Schneider said. "It's really hard for a small winery to come out with many things." So some of the grapes have been sold through the years to other wineries, including Chateau St. Jean.

Noyes and the Kunes would rather focus on a handful of wines

and achieve a higher quality with those, Schneider said. "If you are going to sacrifice the quality for the quantity, you will lose in this business," he said.

Kunde has historically been found largely in restaurants. But the winery is expanding to more stores in the hope of attracting a larger market.

In addition to the chardonnay, some markets are carrying Kunde's 1998 cabernet sauvignon (about \$23), which features small amounts of cabernet franc and petit verdot for greater complexity. There are black cherry notes mixed with a nutty quality.

Tannins are firm, leading to a pleasant, lengthy finish. Both it and the rich 1999 zinfandel (about \$17) suggest greater things to come if properly cellar, though both are drinking well enough now.

And they are being drunk now. For better or for worse, that is the nature of the wine industry. "We in the States do tend to drink our wines as babies," Schneider said.

With preplanning, the cook can enjoy the meal along with the diners. A one-dish-feeds-all entree, such as Noodle-Crusted Quiche Noel, eliminates the drudgery of feeding a crowd.

The comforting eggs, cheese and ham provide protein, the non-traditional noodle crust saves fat and the medley of vegetables adds to the vitamin and mineral count of the rectangular pie.

To round out the meal with little fuss, serve the quiche with crusty bread and a fresh fruit compote. Despite its elegance, the quiche itself — in addition to being nutritious, colorful and appetizing — requires no fancy cooking skills.

2 1/4 cups chopped sweet and/or green peppers
3 tablespoons instant mashed potato
1 cup chopped cooked ham
1 1/2 cups low-fat (1%) cottage cheese
3/4 teaspoon basil, crushed
1/4 teaspoon salt
Spinach leaves, optional
In medium bowl, beat 1 egg. Stir in noodles until blended. To form crust, spoon noodle mixture over bottom of 1/2 x 2-inch baking dish.

Drain mushroom liquid. In medium saucepan. Set over medium heat. Add 1/2 cups sliced mushrooms, onions, ham. Sprinkle over quiche.

In covered blender container, blend remaining eggs, cheese, seasonings at medium speed until smooth. Pour over quiche.

Quiche is best when served hot.

Preheat oven to 375°. Place quiche in center of oven. Inserted near center come out clean, about 25 to 35 minutes. Stand 5 minutes before serving. Garnish with spinach leaves.

NOODLE-CRUSTED QUICHE
NOEL

8 eggs, divided
2 1/2 cups cooked egg or spinach noodles (about 5 oz. uncooked)

1 jar (2 oz.) sliced mushrooms, drained

Makes 8 servings.



WITH THEIR LIVELY FLAVOR and crispy texture, pickled vegetables can turn a plain sandwich into a knockout meal.

1 bunch fresh arugula, cleaned
Roasted red peppers
1/2 pound thinly sliced West-
Phalian ham
1/3 pound thinly sliced brie Cor-
nichon pickles
Spread 2 slices of bread with

mayonnaise, if desired. Arrange arugula pieces to taste on each slice of bread. Top with equal amounts of peppers, ham, cheese and pickles in layers. Top with remaining slices of bread and serve.

Serves 2.

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Yockelson's latest book — 'Baking by Flavor' — is an intense quest for flavor

BY RENEE SCHETTLER

THE WASHINGTON POST

Yockelson's latest book — 'Baking by Flavor' — is an intense quest for flavor

Who would read this book

Bakers as well as wannabe-bakers willing to go waaaay beyond boxed brownie mixes. Sugar addicts who need to flip immediately to the index in desperate need of a recipe.

Sweet tooth who prefer to curl up for a leisurely Saturday lesson on flavor pairings and pyramids. And anyone — like me — who ferociously loves toffee, er, buttercrunch and believes the world needs more of it.

Who shouldn't read this book

Anyone averse to cleaning up should steer clear. When I set out to make the Truffled Chocolate-Walnut Brownies — quite possibly the most decadent, thigh-fattening brownies ever, fudgy down to the last faintly granular bite — I dirtied no less than five mixing bowls, two saucepans, three spatulas, a whisk and a relatively rare size of baking pan. Was it worth it? Ask yourself.

Recipes from the book

"The dynamic flavor of lemon can be as rich, gratifying and potent as chocolate or almond, but in a sweet and sharp way. What distinguishes the taste of lemon from other prominent flavors is the welcoming presence of acid, which, when paired with butter, sugar and eggs, turns an aggressively sour component into one that is tingly, tangy and pleasantly astringent."

"The passageway to expanding the flavor of lemon in batters and doughs can be direct or indirect: freshly grated lemon rind, lemon juice and lemon extract, in various combinations, can charge up a cake batter directly and immediately. These would be classified as dominant flavoring agents."

"On a more subtle, layered level are lemon-scented granulated sugar, candied lemon peel 'threads,' lemon glaze or lemon icing, as accessory flavoring agents."

"When buying lemons at the market, look for firm-surfaced, bright-skinned fruit that are heavy in the hand, indicating that they're full of juice. Avoid lemons with any soft, slightly dimpled areas."

"When a recipe calls for grated lemon peel, use cold lemons, for the chilled peel is easier to grate and produces the fluffiest rind. Fluffy-textured rind — rather than dense, tough rind — produces the

"book is charming and personal, from the author's dedication to her grandmother to her elegant yet approachable food (done justice by photographer Ben Fink)."

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